

THE



TIMES

26

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Thousands hit by new care costs

● Elderly property owners will pay more for home aid ● Triple-lock tax pledge ditched ● Free primary school breakfasts

Oliver Wright Policy Editor
Francis Elliott, Sam Coates

Tens of thousands more people will be made to pay for their care in old age under plans to be announced by Theresa May today.

In social care reforms to be announced in the Conservative manifesto, those who receive care at home would be expected to use the value of their property to contribute to the costs.

At present only people entering residential care have the value of their property in addition to savings and investments taken into account in the means test applied by local authorities.

Mrs May will seek to sweeten the pill by promising that no one would be forced to reduce their overall assets to

less than £100,000 to pay for domiciliary or residential care, and that no one would have to sell their house while still alive or while a surviving spouse lived there. The £100,000 figure would also replace the benchmark of £23,250 used to means test care.

The move is expected to make the Treasury more than £1.3 billion a year but would drag tens of thousands more families into paying for social care, with the sale of the family home often the only way to clear the bills. More than 300,000 people are thought to receive support from social services to live at home and about the same number live in care homes.

In a further move to help to fill the hole in social-care funding, Mrs May will announce that annual winter fuel

payments would be means-tested. At present people aged above 75 receive up to £300 a year to help with their energy bills, regardless of their wealth. Means-testing could save about half the £3 billion annual cost of the payment, according to a study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank, but the Conservatives are yet to reveal at what level it would be applied.

Other significant announcements in the manifesto include:

● A promise to scrap universal free school lunches for infants and replace them with free school breakfasts for all primary children. The move would save about £650 million a year, and would be used to boost school funding by £4 billion over the next parliament. The Tories say this means that

no school would lose out in cash terms if a controversial education funding formula were introduced.

● Rules to make business pay more to hire overseas workers, and higher payments for foreigners to use the NHS. The manifesto will again commit the government to bringing immigration below 100,000 a year as well as warning that sharp increases in migration undermine social cohesion.

● The ditching of David Cameron's promise not to raise income tax, VAT or national insurance. Mrs May will repeat her predecessor's pledge to raise the personal tax allowance and higher rate thresholds.

● New fiscal rules to clear the deficit by 2025, three years later than planned.

The proposal to include property

assets when assessing home-care costs had been proposed by Lord Lansley, the former Tory health secretary. Under his plan, the money raised was due to be invested in introducing a cap on total care costs, as proposed by Sir Andrew Dilnot's commission into social care under the coalition government.

Under today's Conservative proposal, the money raised would be used to subsidise the care costs of those people whose assets fell under the new £100,000 threshold and whose costs were paid for by local authorities.

A report by the King's Fund health think tank suggested that councils were facing a £2.1 billion funding gap in their social-care costs by 2020 because of the ageing population and planned

Continued on page 2, col 3

US prosecutor examines Kremlin role in election

Rhys Blakely Washington

Law chiefs in the United States appointed a special prosecutor last night to oversee an investigation into suspected Russian meddling in last year's election.

In a blow to President Trump, the US Justice Department named Robert Mueller, a former FBI director, to oversee the inquiry. White House aides had repeatedly said in recent days that a special counsel was not needed.

Calls for an independent investigator had increased sharply after Mr Trump sacked James Comey as FBI director last week. The president was alleged to be trying to intervene in a bureau investigation into his former national security adviser.

Mr Mueller, 72, who led the FBI from 2001-13, was appointed by Rod Rosenstein, deputy attorney-general. The decision came after John McCain, the Arizona senator, said that Mr Trump's troubles had reached "Watergate size and scale".

Mr Mueller was authorised to investigate "any links and/or co-ordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the [Trump] campaign" and "any matters that arose or may arise" from the inquiry.

His role will be similar to that of the

special prosecutors who played key parts in the Watergate scandal that toppled Nixon, the Iran-Contra scandal that hit the Reagan administration, and the Monica Lewinsky affair that led to Bill Clinton's impeachment. A special counsel has less autonomy than a special prosecutor, a role phased out in 1999.

Republicans have lost patience with Mr Trump as his administration has lurched from crisis to crisis. The decision to appoint the prosecutor lay with Mr Rosenstein because the attorney-general, Jeff Sessions, agreed to step aside from any Russia invention after he misled the Senate about his contacts with a Russian ambassador.

Mr Trump said: "A thorough investigation will confirm what we already know: there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity."

Earlier Vladimir Putin defended Mr Trump, as the US leader said: "Look at the way I've been treated by the media. No politician in history — and I say this with great surety — has been treated worse or more unfairly." Mr Putin offered to give Congress a transcript of an Oval Office meeting last week between Mr Trump and the Russian foreign minister, to prove that Mr Trump had not leaked secret intelligence.

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Wall Street takes fright, page 37



Cannes do The actress Jessica Chastain arriving for a screening of *Ismael's Ghosts* as the film festival began yesterday. **Page 16**

IN THE NEWS

Gastric band in a pill

Swallowing a balloon in a capsule enabled participants in a study in Italy to shed more than two stone over four months, enough to avoid weight-loss surgery. **Page 4**

Homes 'worthless'

Two couples who paid more than £2 million between them for luxury houseboats on the Thames say they discovered later that they had no right to live on them. **Page 5**

Fatal pollution

The death rate from air pollution in Britain is worse than in Mexico, Brazil and Argentina and twice as bad as in the US, the World Health Organisation has said. **Page 7**

Macron's EU push

Emmanuel Macron put two reform-minded conservatives in charge of the French economy in a cross-party cabinet shaped for his push to "relaunch" the EU. **Page 33**

Energy profits rise

Profit margins from household energy supply at SSE rose to their highest in eight years, helping to boost group profits to £1.5 billion and bolstering calls for a price cap. **Page 37**

Lord's states claim

MCC is to seek reassurances that Lord's will continue to stage two Test matches each summer after the number of England's home Tests is reduced from 2020. **Page 72**

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UNSAFE AS HOUSES

Kirstie Allsopp has warned homebuyers to be wary of shoddy new properties

NEWS PAGE 15

TIMES2



COLM TÓIBÍN

The novelist on Greek tragedy, Irish matriarchs and why he'll never win the Booker

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COMMENT

'Norman Podhoretz's insights into the hazards of social mobility could not be more relevant'

JENNI RUSSELL, PAGE 26

DINNER TONIGHT

Greek spinach and feta pie

This is a favourite when I want a dish without meat or fish. It's straightforward to make, easy to shop for and universally loved. I usually serve it with roast tomato halves or a thick tomato sauce. It's good hot, warm or cold and revives quickly and easily in a hot oven if there are leftovers. Serves 4-6 Prep 30 min Cook 55 min

Ingredients: bunch of spring onions; 6 tbsp olive oil; 500g young spinach; 80g flat-leaf parsley; 2 bunches dill; 3 eggs; 200g Greek



feta cheese; 40g parmesan; 260g filo pastry.

Trim and finely slice onions. Heat 2 tbsp oil in a spacious frying/sauté pan and gently soften onion. Add the spinach to the pan in 2 or 3 batches, folding it into the soft onions as it wilts. Finely chop the parsley leaves and dill, discarding thick stalks. Add both to the wilting spinach, tossing until mixed and wilted. Scoop into a colander, pressing to extract excess liquid. Heat the

oven to 200C/gas mark 6. Lightly oil a gratin dish about 24x18x4cm. Whisk the eggs in a mixing bowl. Crumble in the feta, grate parmesan over the top then season with salt and pepper. Stir in the spinach mix. Working quickly, open out filo and paint the top sheet with olive oil. Place it over the dish, pressing into base but leaving a deep overhang. Repeat with half the filo. Fill with spinach, gently fold in overhang. Oil and layer up the remaining filo. Oil top sheet and etch a wide diagonal lattice. Bake for 40 min or until puffed, crusty and golden.

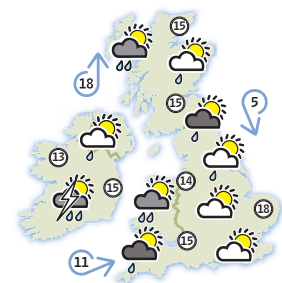
Lindsey Bareham

OFFER

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PLEASE SEE PAGES 22-23 FOR DETAILS

THE WEATHER



A day of sunshine and scattered showers, these heavier in the north and west. Full forecast, page 61

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Facebook braced for huge fine over misleading takeover claim

Robert Miller

Facebook faces a multimillion-dollar fine for misleading European authorities over its \$22 billion takeover of the instant message service WhatsApp.

The European Commission is expected to conclude an investigation launched last December with the announcement of a fine today. The commission has the power to issue a maximum penalty of 1 per cent of Facebook's 2016 turnover, or \$276 million (£213million), although it has not disclosed what the sum will be.

The EU will not reverse its decision to allow the 2014 acquisition but is expected to impose a significant financial forfeit to deter other companies from providing misleading information, according to the *Financial Times*.

The commission has alleged that Facebook falsely claimed it was technically impossible to combine user information from Facebook and WhatsApp automatically. Last summer WhatsApp announced that it would share user

information with its parent company, admitting that personal details would be used to target advertisements and improve products on Facebook.

Margrethe Vestager, the EU competition commissioner, said when she opened the investigation: "Timely and effective review of mergers depends on the accuracy of the information."

"Companies are obliged to give the commission accurate information during merger investigations. They must take this obligation seriously."

Today's penalty will be the social media and publishing company's third fine in Europe in a week, after Italian and French regulators punished it for data protection and privacy violations. Privacy watchdogs have asked Jan Koum, WhatsApp's chief executive, to suspend sharing of users' data.

Although Facebook halted its collection of WhatsApp data for advertising purposes in Europe from November, regulators in France, Belgium, Spain, the Netherlands and Germany have continued to look into its wider activi-

ties. In particular, they have taken issue with how it tracks users across the internet with too little warning.

Facebook and the European Commission declined to comment.

In January the EU published draft rules to give users more control of their settings and limit the "overload of consent requests" for cookies while browsing the web. The proposed rules were aimed at Facebook, Google and others to limit their access to personal details.

Facebook's measures to tackle fake news after it was blamed for swinging the US election are ineffective and may help false stories to spread, experts have said. Creators of fake news told *The Guardian* that the tagging of their stories as false had little or no impact on their traffic. Obviously false stories weren't tagged, they said, and others were marked only after being widely circulated. Christian Winthrop, editor of the Newport Buzz, said traffic to one story on his site "skyrocketed" after it was tagged, as conservatives shared a story they felt was being suppressed.

Elite degree is springboard to success

Nicola Woolcock

Education Correspondent

A degree, and preferably a good one from an elite university, is a crucial ingredient for doing well in life, say academics in America and Germany who studied almost 12,000 leaders in the United States, including businessmen, politicians and judges.

Their aim was to analyse whether there was any truth in the perception that the most successful people did not have degrees, the *Times Educational Supplement* reported. They found that the vast majority attended university and many went to a handful of leading institutions.

Jonathan Wai, of Duke University in North Carolina, and Heiner Rindermann, of Chemnitz University of Tech-

nology, in Saxony, found that 94 per cent of the leaders they asked had attended university.

Across the US, between 2 and 5 per cent of undergraduates attend elite universities but their graduates account for more than 80 per cent of *Forbes* magazine's list of powerful people. A third of multimillionaires in the survey had graduated from one of these universities.

The academics said: "For students with talent and motivation to make it to the top of US society an elite college might just help you get there — whether it's the networks you acquire or the brand on your resumé."

Lee Elliot Major, chief executive of the Sutton Trust, says that figures were similar in the UK; about 1 per cent of the population attends Oxford or Cam-

bridge, but more than 70 per cent of barristers and judges are drawn from those two universities.

"What's striking is that the returns of an elite education are getting bigger with every generation," he said. "Getting that Oxbridge or Ivy League degree means so much more now. It's astonishing really."

He said that attending an elite university counted for much more in the US than in the UK. "If you get an elite degree in the US, it really does catapult you into the professional elite," he added.

"Here, while it clearly helps, it's not the whole story. If you're a state-school-educated student, even having a Cambridge degree, you're still less likely to progress up the professions than your independent-school counterpart."

Q&A

How does the care system work?

Anyone with assets worth more than £23,250 must pay the full costs of residential social care. Fees for those who don't have such savings are paid by their local authority. Elderly people in need of nursing care should be funded by the NHS.

How many people pay themselves?

About 177,000 people pay for their own

residential care. This equates to one in ten people over 65, with cumulative costs of £100,000 or more. Some 220,000 care home residents are paid for by local authorities.

What are the Tories proposing?

The value of someone's assets would rise to £100,000 before they had to pay. However, property would also be used in the calculation for people seeking care in their homes, meaning thousands could be charged. The changes could raise about £1.3 billion a year.

How much is spent on social care?

Councils spent £14.4 billion on adult social care last year, a third of their spending. Spending per resident fell by 11 per cent in real terms between 2010 and 2016 but there are more elderly people in need of care. In March's budget £2 billion more was allocated over three years.

What will happen to the money raised?

The Conservatives are promising to plough all the extra money into care for those below the new £100,000 limit.

£35,000 cap on care costs. The coalition legislated for an upper limit of £72,000 but this was shelved in 2015 by the Cameron government.

The *Times* has learnt that Philip Hammond, the chancellor, Ben Gummer, minister for the Cabinet Office, and Sajid Javid, the communities secretary, have modelled savings from scrapping the 12-week "disregard" during which property cannot be included in the means test for residential care. At

present councils can exempt homes occupied by a wide range of relatives as long as they are over 60, under 18 or "incapacitated". Ministers are considering limiting the exemption to spouses and children, a well-placed source said.

Together, experts estimate that these measures could save about £200 million a year. A Tory campaign source refused to comment on the plans.

System at risk of collapse, pages 12-13 Letters, page 28

Hirst in another pickle over 'plagiarism'

David Sanderson Arts Correspondent

Damien Hirst may have to change the name of his Venice exhibition to *Treasures from the Studios of Other Artists*.

A British sculptor is in discussions with lawyers over whether Hirst has breached his copyright with his multi-million-pound show *Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable*.

Jason deCaires Taylor said that there were "striking similarities" between his underwater marine installations and some of the sculptures Hirst presented at two Venetian museums on the eve of the Biennale.

DeCaires Taylor, 42, whose work was presented at the Grenada pavilion during the Biennale, said yesterday that he was considering whether to pursue his fellow British artist through the courts.

"The main thing is if I start court proceedings over copyright, to enforce my copyright position," he told *The Times*. "His work is very different in context although there are things that are stylistically the same."

Hirst denied the copyright claims. It is not the first time the artist, one of the world's wealthiest, has been accused of copying his contemporaries' work.

The Canadian artist Colleen Wolstenholme is seeking punitive damages from Hirst in New York, claiming that spin-off products from his *Medicine Cabinet* series were copies of her jewellery inspired by prescription pills.

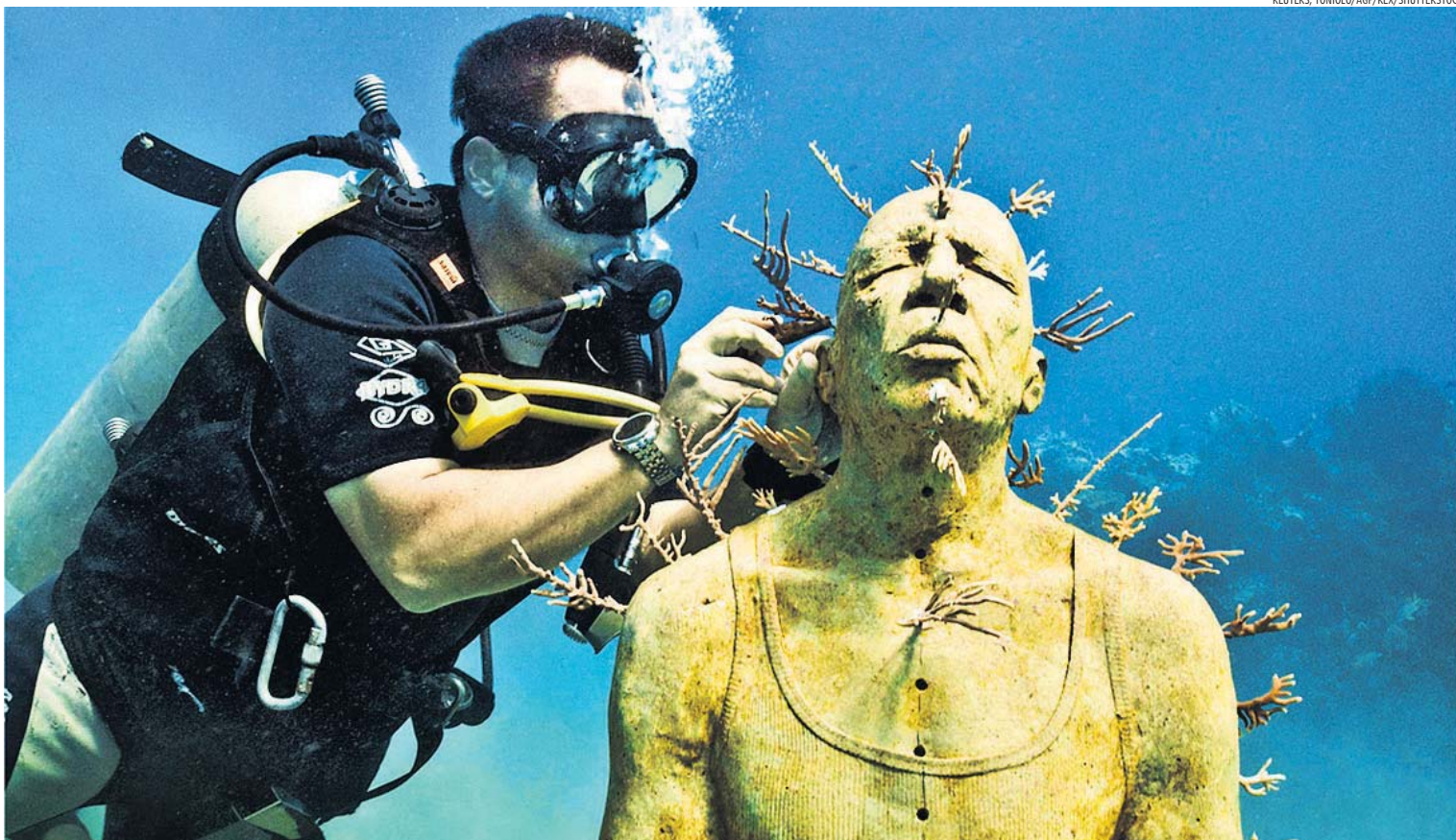
Hirst's company, Science Ltd, has said that he produced his first pill work long before Wolstenholme created her first jewellery.

Another artist, John LeKay, has claimed that Hirst's skull encrusted with diamonds was derived from his crystal skulls from 1993. The two had been friends.

Hirst has also been accused of plagiarism over a photoshoot for the cover of *GQ* depicting the pop star Rihanna as Medusa. Jim Starr claimed that his work had "inspired" Hirst.

Beyond the plagiarism claims, Hirst has also had to deal with concerns that one of his works, exhibited at Tate Modern in 2012, could have poisoned visitors. Levels of formaldehyde from *Mother and Child (Divided)* — for which carcasses of a calf and cow were cut down the middle and placed in vitrines — were above an advisory limit, researchers said. One of the researchers later retracted these claims, saying that they were not accurate.

Hirst has cultivated an air of mystery about *Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable*. The premise is that the coral-encrusted "treasures" were re-



Jason deCaires Taylor's underwater installations, top, are said to have inspired Damien Hirst's fantastical £50 million work *Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable*, above

Reflections of creativity

● Sarah Morris, who once shared the White Cube gallery with Hirst, was accused of copyright infringements by a group of origami artists who said that her abstract paintings were coloured-in copies of their original works. The claim was settled.

● Jake and Dinos Chapman were accused in 2007 of "ripping off" another artist when

they defaced £10 and £20 notes. The artist D*Face claimed he had been doing it years earlier. The Chapman brothers retorted that they had been "defacing" work since the early 1990s.

● Bob Dylan's paintings at an exhibition in 2011 were said to be "remarkably similar" to well known photos. The singer has previously "sampled" other poets,

writers and musicians for his musical oeuvre

● In 2000 the Turner prize-shortlisted artist Glenn Brown's canvas was said to be almost identical to the cover of a 1970s science fiction book. That year's chairman of the jury, Sir Nicholas Serota, said the use of other artists' work to develop one's own work was true of Picasso, who borrowed from Rembrandt.

covered from a ship that sank two millennia ago. The reality, probably, is that many of the sculptures, drinking vessels, coins, armour and jewellery were created at foundries for Hirst. It is estimated that the show, the artist's most

ambitious, cost more than £50 million and took up to a decade to prepare.

At the Grenada pavilion in Venice, DeCaires Taylor's exhibits also feature barnacle-covered statues. The creator of the world's first underwater sculp-

ture park, in 2006 in Grenada, said that his 11 years working underwater had been about "giving something back, creating new life and providing glimpses into a fragile imperilled world".

"After viewing Hirst's latest exhibition it seems I have certainly created an art genre that has been responded to but his marine facsimiles are very different in context from my living installations," he said. He added that it would have been "good to have had an acknowledgement" from Hirst.

Hirst, 51, denied suggestions that he has breached the artist's copyright. His spokeswoman said: "Damien has always been fascinated by what he describes as 'the action of the world on things' and he became interested in coralised works in the late 90s, when he sank some objects off the coast of Mexico. The whole concept of *Treasures* is a fantastical story about a collection of objects, influenced by a wide range of cultures and stories from across the globe and throughout history, which are discovered at the bottom of the sea."

John Lewis's price promise halo slips

Andrew Ellison
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Questions have been raised over John Lewis's famous "never knowingly undersold" promise after an investigation found that the retailer failed to cut the prices of a range of goods that it knew were being sold cheaper elsewhere.

The chain did not drop its advertised prices on 15 out of 16 products that it was told were sold for less by rivals.

Under its pledge, John Lewis says: "If we find that [high street competitors] are selling the same individual product, sold with the same service conditions, at a lower price, we'll meet that price in our shops and at johnlewis.com."

To test this promise, researchers from Moneysavingexpert.com bought a range of items, all of which could be found cheaper elsewhere, from different John Lewis stores and its website. The purchases included a Bang & Ol-

ufsen Beoplay A2 Bluetooth speaker, which was sold for £299.95 by John Lewis but for £239 by Peter Tyson.

On each occasion when researchers returned to show that the products cost less elsewhere, the store refunded the difference. John Lewis should then have reduced the prices of those goods at all of its shops and on its website and done so as soon as possible. But two weeks later, the only item that had its price cut at all outlets was Microsoft's Office 365 Home subscription for five users, which fell from £79.95 to £59.95 to beat the £59.99 price at Argos.

Martin Lewis, of Moneysavingexpert.com, said: "John Lewis is a rightly much-loved store. It prides itself on its claim to be 'never knowingly undersold'. Yet ... our research shows John Lewis is not always the champion of price it wants people to think it is. After all, if it is agreeing to reduce prices because they qualify for its price match

then continues to sell the goods at the higher price to everyone else, it knows that it is being undersold. The failure was not limited to a few items — it was well over 90 per cent of them."

John Lewis said that on five of the goods it was a mistake not to have reduced the prices, but on most of the others it would not have done so anyway because the products had not come from nationwide chains.

A spokeswoman said that John Lewis monitored rival prices and made 2.5 million reductions last year. She said that it would look into the report, and added: "Never knowingly undersold is at the heart of everything we do and we are disappointed that this research focused on a small number of specific examples rather than the millions of prices that we lower each year."

"John Lewis is the only department store with a comprehensive price promise."

Costly sunscreen is given a roasting in consumer tests

Andrew Ellison

One of the most expensive bottles of sunscreen does not provide the protection that it claims to, according to tests by Which?.

The consumer group assessed 14 products and found that Avon's Sun+ Multi Protection Moisturising Sun Lotion did not provide protection at SPF level 30 despite being the most expensive bottle tested, at £10 for 150ml.

The other 13 products, including brands such as Hawaiian Tropic and Nivea, and own-brands by Morrisons and Superdrug, passed the British Standard SPF and UVA tests.

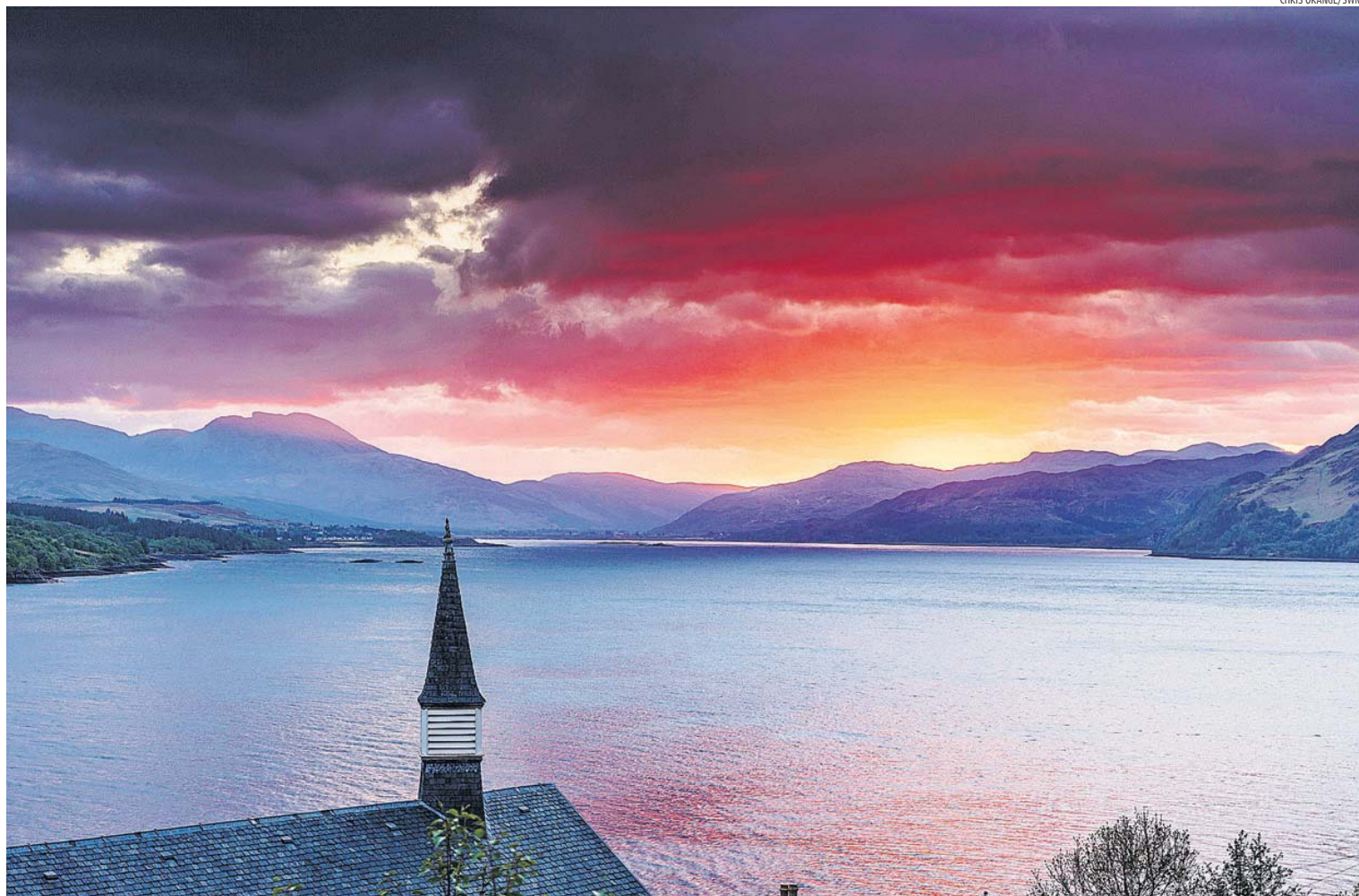
Which? says that although manufacturers test products before they go to market they may not do so again, and is demanding more frequent testing.

Richard Headland of Which? said: "Manufacturers should only be selling products that live up to their claims, which is why Which? will continue to monitor and challenge the industry."

A similar Which? investigation last year found that "once-a-day" sunscreens may not offer adequate all-day protection, with SPF levels dropping by three quarters after six to eight hours.

However, Chris Flower of the Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association, said consumers could trust their sunscreen's SPF. "In contrast to the one-off testing carried out by Which? cosmetics companies don't just rely on one phase of testing to determine the SPF number, but test sunscreens at various stages of their development."

Avon said it was confident in its own tests that showed its lotion had SPF30.

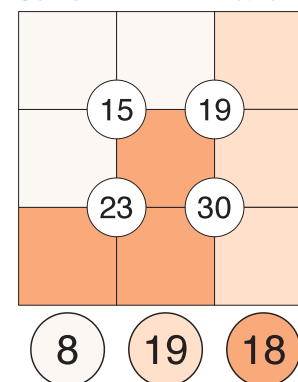


Vroom with a view Sunrise at Loch Carron, Highland. The nearby roads are popular with motorcyclists but showers could make them tricky today. Weather, page 61

CHRIS ORANGE/SWNS

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Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solution and more puzzles
MindGames in Times2

Ex-first minister dies

Rhodri Morgan, the former first minister of Wales, has died aged 77. The Labour politician held the role from 2000 to 2009. Carwyn Jones, the current first minister, said that Wales had lost a “father figure”. Alun Cairns, the Welsh secretary, described Mr Morgan as a “great servant to Wales”. He added that his thoughts were with Mr Morgan’s widow, Julie. Mr Morgan became chancellor of Swansea University after retiring from politics in 2011.

Surplus food wasted

Food manufacturers and farmers give less than 1 per cent of their surplus food to good causes, according to Fareshare, the redistribution charity. More than 600,000 tonnes of edible food rots in fields, is buried in landfills or used as fuel, the charity claimed. Retailers and suppliers such as Yeo Valley, Müller, Kingsmill and 2Sisters were praised for redistributing goods.

Scooter death charges

The boyfriend of a pregnant woman killed in a scooter accident in Thailand is to be charged over her death. Danny Glass, 29, originally from Margate, Kent, was giving Sophie Emma Rose Anderson, 41, a lift when he collided with a lorry in Phuket on May 8. Mr Glass and Natt Awut Timsue, the lorry driver, will be charged with causing death by reckless driving, Thai police said.

British music losing out

Video-streaming websites such as YouTube deprive the British recording industry of hundreds of millions of pounds in revenue through legal loopholes, the British Phonographic Industry said in its annual report. The UK was “punching above its weight”, but the industry was deprived of vital income because of EU copyright rules that were no longer fit for purpose, it added.

Call for clicky divorce

Online divorce must be introduced as soon as possible and separated from rows about money, the most senior family judge in England and Wales has said. Sir James Munby wrote in a newsletter that financial disputes should be handled in specialist courts and that the changes could be made simply by altering rules and forms and would not require legislation.

Gastric band in a pill provides quick fix for ballooning weight

Chris Smyth Health Editor, Porto

Swallowing a “gastric band in a pill” leads to dramatic weight loss within weeks, a study has found.

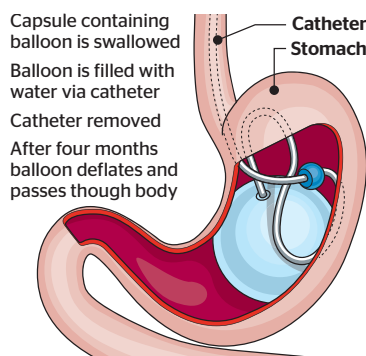
People who used the capsule balloon lost more than two stone over four months, enough for significant health improvements, without the need for an operation.

The Elipse balloon, costs about £3,000, which is roughly half the price of surgery. It is available in the UK.

A quarter of British adults are obese and researchers hope that a balloon pill could be a cheaper and safer alternative to weight loss surgery. More than a million people are eligible for such surgery but only about 7,000 get an operation.

However, some experts fear that people would put the weight back on after the balloon deflated, and data over several years will be needed before it can be considered for use on the NHS.

Unlike similar devices, the Elipse bal-



loon does not need any invasive procedure to implant or remove as it spontaneously deflates after four months.

The 42 patients in the study lost 5.4kg on average, rising to 8.9kg after eight weeks and 15.2kg after 16 weeks, according to data presented at the European Congress on Obesity in Porto, Portugal. Roberta Ienca, at the Sapienza Uni-

versity of Rome, said that there had been an incredible reaction from patients delighted at losing 14 per cent of their body weight.

“A weight loss of 5-10 per cent of total body weight is typically associated with improvements in cardiovascular and metabolic health, indicating that the weight loss observed in this study is indeed significant,” she said.

The NHS is testing other devices that restrict food intake, but such alternatives require invasive procedures. “Eliminating the costs and inconvenience of endoscopy and anaesthesia may make these balloons accessible to more patients,” Dr Ienca said.

Patients were encouraged to adopt a healthier Mediterranean diet while using the balloon. “The balloon itself represent only a part of the treatment; crucial is the huge amount of work, provided by us, aimed to change the mindset of the patient.”

Dr Ienca said that hunger might

return when the balloon was excreted, but some patients would maintain the weight loss by adapting a healthier lifestyle. Others could return for another balloon.

Jason Halford, of the European Association for the Study of Obesity, said that “potentially millions could benefit”, but changing people’s eating habits was vital. “The problem is weight regain — managing obesity is a lifelong thing,” he said. “With bariatric [obesity] surgery, there are potential complications, it’s a very permanent change in your life and it’s not easily reversible.”

Rachel Batterham, of University College London, said that unlike gastric bypass surgery, balloons would not lead to permanent changes in appetite hormones. “Weight management should never be about how much or how fast you can lose weight; what matters is finding a lifestyle that means you can keep your weight as low as possible whilst living a life that you can enjoy.”

Vigorous exercise cuts desire for junk food treats

Chris Smyth

Exercise dampens cravings for fatty food, the first study of its kind suggests.

People who exercised vigorously found such foods 15 per cent less appealing than those who preferred sitting around, research found. Scientists believe that people who get their kicks from exercise do not feel the need to reward themselves with fattening treats.

Spending too much time sitting down also detunes the metabolism, making it harder for people to eat less when they are full, researchers said.

Graham Finlayson, of Leeds University, who led the study, said: “There’s a public perception that if you do lots of exercise then you’re more likely to want to compensate and reward yourself with high-energy foods. So what we’re showing here is counterintuitive — actually that’s not the case. The more activity you do the less you reward yourself with fatty foods.”

The study looked at the daily activity levels of 180 people, which were compared with how much they liked and craved fat and sweet foods. On a scale of 1-100, the most active group found fatty

foods 15 per cent less desirable than the least active, Dr Finlayson told the European Congress on Obesity in Porto.

“What we found is that there is a clear relationship between the amount of moderate to vigorous physical activity — raising your heart rate and building up a sweat — and the desire to eat high-fat food,” said Dr Finlayson. “Spending loads of time on the sofa seems to dis-regulate control over appetite.”

Public Health England estimates that one in six deaths can be traced to laziness. Two thirds of UK adults do not do the recommended half an hour of

moderate activity five days a week. Steven Ward, of the charity ukactive, said: “We know physical activity is key to weight management by burning calories, but it’s a win-win that reaching for your gym shoes means you’re less likely to reach for the snack cupboard.”

“It’s essential our next government tackles the root of the problem.”

● Swapping a daily beer or fizzy drink for water cuts the risk of obesity by 15 per cent, a study by the University of Navarra suggests. Scientists questioned 15,765 people about their diets and monitored their weight over four years.

We're up the creek, say houseboat buyers

Frances Gibb Legal Editor

Two couples who paid more than £2 million between them for luxury houseboats on the Thames say they discovered later that they had no right to live there and that their homes are now worthless.

Oliver and Jennifer Small and Fiona Johnstone and Louis Sydney say that they bought their floating properties from Myck Djurberg, an entrepreneur, on the understanding that they came with 125-year mooring licences — but subsequently learnt that the homes were sold without mooring rights or planning permission.

To make matters worse the houseboats, bought for £850,000 and £1.25 million respectively, are too large at 5,000 sq ft to find another berth, the High Court has been told.

Both couples had planned to berth their houseboats permanently at Mr Djurberg's Hampton Riviera boatyard, near Hampton Court Palace, but the absence of mooring licences and residential planning consent made it impossible for them to stay, their barrister, Adam Rosenthal, told the court.

Mr Djurberg, trading as Hampton Riviera, insists he made clear to both couples that the mooring licences



Myck Djurberg denies selling the two boats with mooring rights

would not be included in the sale price, and that the issue of residential planning permission was something that needed to be taken up by the buyers with the local authority.

He claims that the Smalls owe him

money for mooring fees, and that Ms Johnstone and Mr Sydney failed to keep up payments on their houseboat and never legally owned it. They maintain that the boat was legally theirs once they moved in and are seeking damages from Mr Djurberg, who repossessed it and sold it on.

Last year Mr Djurberg was cleared of charges that he groped the bottoms of workmen during construction of the Hampton Riviera boatyard. Soon afterwards he put up for sale his luxurious 150-year-old Swiss chalet on the



banks of the Thames in Hampton for £13 million.

The court was told yesterday that Mr and Mrs Small bought their vessel, Willowbank, off plan for £1.25 million, believing it would be "a fantastic home in a great location" for themselves and their two children. They met Mr Djurberg at his boatyard in December 2012, where he unveiled his "big plans" for the marina, including a swimming pool, a gym and gardens. He showed them the dry dock at Hampton Riviera where their boat was to be sited, Mr Rosenthal

said. The ability to live on the boat permanently located in the dry dock was a "particular attraction to them".

Mr Small, 42, an IT consultant, told the court that Mr Djurberg had said they would be part of a "dream residential community". He added: "Part of the dream we were sold was him building us a home and finding four houseboat residents as one community."

Instead he had to "park" Willowbank in a local storage facility as they could find no alternative mooring near by after leaving Hampton Riviera.

The vessel's sheer bulk made it impossible to find a berth elsewhere on the river, as it could not fit under most bridges, Mr Rosenthal said.

Ms Johnstone and Mr Sydney moved into their houseboat with their teenage son in 2015 after agreeing on a £850,000 price. They were left "traumatised" when they later realised that they had no permanent right to live at the marina. The houseboat was later repossessed. Mr Djurberg insists that the couple moved in without his permission as most of the purchase price was still outstanding, and denies giving assurances that their floating home came with a 125-year mooring licence.

The hearing, before Judge Murray Rosen, QC, continues.

Telling mothers-to-be not to drink 'is wrong'

Fariha Karim

Official advice to abstain from alcohol during pregnancy is overly cautious and sexist, academics claim.

Mothers-to-be seen drinking in public face hostility when there is little solid evidence that light or moderate drinking causes significant damage.

While consistent heavy drinking during pregnancy can lead to foetal alcohol syndrome, public policy towards pregnant women has "gone down an overly precautionary route", according to the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) and Ellie Lee, director of the centre of parenting culture studies at the University of Kent.

Dr Lee said it was impossible to establish the safe level of alcohol exposure in pregnancy, but added: "There is now an assumption that a pregnant woman holding a glass of wine is doing something absolutely wrong. Women are being accosted, spoken to and stared at in public."

Last January Professor Dame Sally Davies, the chief medical officer, issued guidelines warning that women should stop drinking from the moment they found out they were pregnant. The

advice was backed by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The guidance also recommends that "the safest approach" for a woman who planned to become pregnant was to stop drinking.

Last year almost half of pregnant women said that they continued to drink alcohol despite the guidelines, with about 40 per cent saying they had researched the issue and decided that it was safe to drink.

Last month a study into European women's drinking habits suggested that those who drank while pregnant were likely to be older, better educated and employed. Five per cent of Italian women, and 4 per cent in Britain, admitted drinking alcohol at least once or twice a week during pregnancy, compared with 0.1 per cent in Sweden.

BPAS and members of the University of Kent will debate the guidelines at a conference at Canterbury Christ Church University today. BPAS wants the advice to be updated, fearing that it risks scaring women into aborting pregnancies because they have drunk alcohol.

A spokeswoman for the Royal College of Midwives said that it was "best to avoid alcohol" while pregnant.

Rada gets women to act like men

Fariha Karim

Stop nodding in agreement, smile a lot less and try a bit of manspreading next time you're surrounded by men at a meeting, even if you're a woman.

The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art is offering tips such as these to female graduates hoping to enter the world of work with a course on "confidence and presence for women". The school's one-day workshop costs £625 and focuses on vocal and physical presence and building confidence and a personal brand. It is run by Rada in Business, a commercial subsidiary.

Rada has listed ten body language

mistakes, "where female leaders unknowingly reduce their authority by denoting vulnerability or submission". These include using too many head tilts, which imply empathy; taking up less physical space than men; inappropriately and excessively smiling; and failing to interrupt enough.

Rada already offers an "executive" option for women working at a senior level, at £3,800 for a three-day workshop, and a mid-level version at £1,850.

The courses have been adopted by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, which was commended two years ago for achieving a 50-50 gender split in its leadership team.



Overexposed Claudio Bertoni, a Chilean photographer whose work often features nudity, is among the exhibitors at Photo London which ends on Sunday

State 'should obliterate Brady's body'

Gabriella Swerling

The brother of the only missing Moors Murders victim has called for Ian Brady's remains to be "destroyed". His body has been under police protection and will be released today.

Keith Bennett, 12, was the third victim of Brady and Myra Hindley and was tortured and murdered in 1964. Brady, who died at Ashworth psychiatric hospital on Monday, refused to disclose the boy's whereabouts.

Keith's brother, Alan, said that if Brady did want his ashes scattered where his brother and other victims were buried it "would be a very Brady-like thing to do" but said that his body "should be destroyed by the authorities".

On Tuesday Christopher Sumner, senior coroner for Merseyside, told an inquest in Southport that he would release Brady's body only when he was satisfied that his ashes would not be scattered on Saddleworth Moor.

Mr Bennett, who runs a website called Searching for Keith, posted on Facebook: "Surely there is a simple way of ensuring this: by not releasing his remains/ashes to anyone other than a blood relation. And since he has no known surviving close birth relatives, his remains should be destroyed by the authorities."

Robin Makin, a solicitor and executor of Brady's will, told the inquest that "there's no likelihood that the ashes would be spread on Saddleworth Moor".

Brady's body is believed to be stored at an NHS mortuary and will be released at 2pm to ensure that Mr Makin has had enough time to "negotiate" with police in making appropriate funeral arrangements.

When Hindley died in 2002 aged 60, local undertakers refused to cremate her. She was eventually cremated in secret, with dozens of police on duty.

Brady's inquest was adjourned until June 29.

Law, page 54

Merkel issues tit-for-tat trade warning

David Charter Berlin
Bruno Waterfield Brussels

Britain will “pay a price” for stopping the free movement of workers in Europe, Angela Merkel said yesterday as she warned of tit-for-tat measures in response to changes to consumer or environmental protections after Brexit.

The German chancellor gave her strongest warning yet of future clashes if Britain went down a route of deregulation, saying that the European Union would react to changes in the “field of competition” between the two sides.

Mrs Merkel also raised the prospect of goods having to be kept in storage for checks at Britain’s border once it left, if it decided to break from the continental trade and customs system.

Attitudes have hardened in Berlin since the referendum result last June, especially after Philip Hammond’s warning of aggressive tax cuts.

“If the British government says that

free movement of people does not apply any more, that will have its price,” Mrs Merkel said at an international labour conference in Berlin in response to a question from Frances O’Grady, head of the Trades Union Congress.

“This is not malicious, but I cannot have all the good sides and then say there is a cap of 100,000 or 200,000 EU citizens, more are not allowed into Britain,” she said. “That will not work, and then we would have to think about what obstacles we put in place from the European side to compensate.”

Mrs Merkel insisted that she would do all she could to preserve good relations with Britain but made clear her priority now was the bloc.

“It is very much in the hands of Great Britain and the British government, how they shape the relations later,” she said. “At the moment the whole European set of rules applies, which has some protective elements, such as the working-time directive or on environ-

mental regulations, consumer protection etc. When Great Britain has left the EU, it will of course be free to change all these regulations. This is a matter for the UK and we must then consider how we react to it.”

She added: “The field of competition can shift. If we have higher or lower environmental regulations — I now want to remain quite neutral — in the EU and Great Britain increases or decreases its environmental regulations, then that has an impact on competitiveness and then the EU must be free to react.”

Officials in Brussels are ready to begin talks within hours of the election next month, Michel Barnier, the bloc’s chief Brexit negotiator, said. He dismissed claims that Britain’s divorce bill will be as high as €100 billion and sources said that the final “settlement” paid on exit could be, at the most, €40 billion.

Mr Barnier contradicted claims

made by Nigel Farage that he would demand a “ludicrous ransom” from Britain as the cost of leaving the union.

“I have never quoted these figures. The figures will depend on the methodology. It’s not a punishment, it’s not an exit bill,” he told the European parliament in Strasbourg yesterday.

He added: “We have to shoulder some responsibility together. It’s not about revenge, it’s not about punishment.”

Mr Barnier said that he wanted Brexit talks to begin in the European Commission’s Albert Borschette conference centre in Brussels on Friday, June 9.

“We hope to start negotiations as soon as possible, the day after the elections May has called for June 8,” Mr Barnier said.

“The fact that elections take place just before the start of negotiations will give a clear stability and visibility to our UK partner.”

Iain Martin, page 27

Father killed in mountain fall was financier

Simon de Bruxelles

A man who fell to his death while walking in Snowdonia with his daughter was an investment manager.

John Wynne, 61, from Exmouth in Devon, is believed to have lost his footing while descending Tryfan, near Capel Curig, on Sunday with his daughter, 23. The father of three was flown to hospital, where he died.

In a statement the family of Mr Wynne, originally from Carlow, Ireland, said: “We are so thankful for all



John Wynne lost his footing during a descent

Number of EU workers recovers after Brexit vote slump

Richard Ford Home Correspondent

The number of EU-born migrants working in the UK has risen after a post-Brexit referendum slump and is back to the level of six months ago, according to figures published yesterday.

The number of Romanian and Bulgarian-born workers reached a record 311,000 between January and March, up 80,000 in a year, according

to the Office for National Statistics’ labour force survey.

Figures showed that all the growth in employment in the UK in the year to January-March this year had come from people born overseas. The number of UK-born people in work fell by 1,000 to 26.2 million in this period, while employed non-UK workers rose by 388,000 to 5.8 million.

Carlos Vargas-Silva, acting director

of Oxford University’s Migration Observatory, said: “We have full employment among British nationals so there is increasing demand for migrant workers. As long as the British economy remains strong they are going to keep coming.”

The number of EU-born workers employed in the UK dropped by 50,000 to 2.309 million between the third and fourth quarter last year but has subse-

quently risen by the same amount, the survey figures showed.

In addition, the number of non EU-born workers rose by 39,000 from January to March 2016 and the same period this year, to 3.28 million. This included rises among those born in Africa, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, Pakistan and Bangladesh but a drop in those from India and the US.

Unemployment falls, page 18

the prayers, love and support from wonderful family and friends who are also feeling such a great loss.”

Mr Wynne had been head of finance at the investment management firm Hawksmoor since 2009. Previously he had worked in financial services in Ireland, Bermuda and the UK.

John Crowley, chief executive of Hawksmoor, said: “We are devastated to lose such a valued and admired friend and colleague as John. His wise and experienced input from the very early days of Hawksmoor made a major contribution to the company’s growth.”

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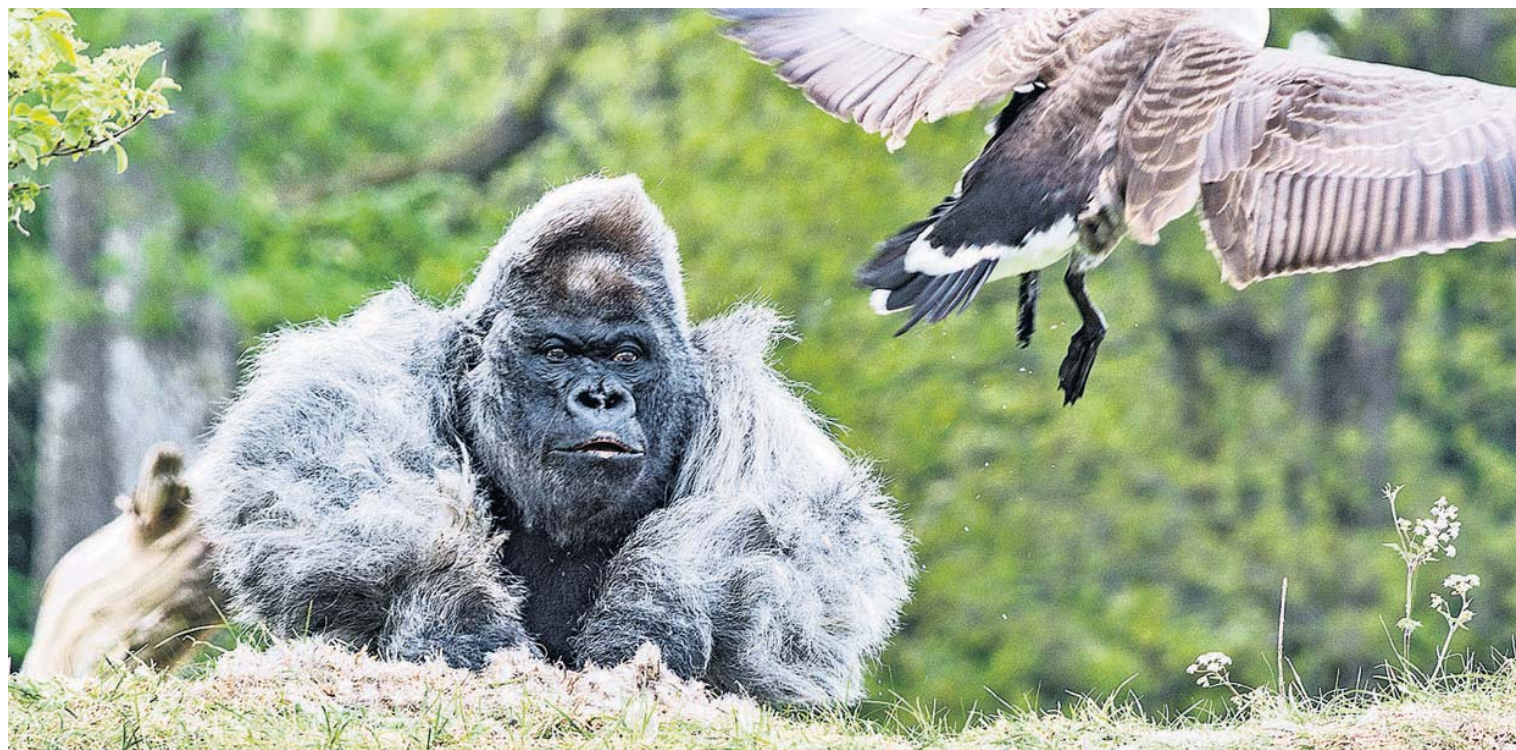




Get off my land Nico, a 55-year-old gorilla, did not take kindly to a goose invading his home at Longleat safari park. After a few moments to size up the unwelcome guest, he pounded his fists on the ground and, wisely, it flew away to leave him in peace



MICHAEL MECHEN/BNPS



GCSE makes a monkey out of pupils

Nicola Woolcock
Education Correspondent

Students complaining about bizarre or unfathomable questions have become a staple of the exam season, and a biology GCSE paper sat yesterday did not disappoint.

It asked why Charles Darwin was drawn as a monkey in a cartoon.

Thousands of teenagers took the paper, set by the AQA exam board, with many turning to social media afterwards to voice their exasperation.

One wrote on Twitter: "There's me revising homeostasis and the menstrual cycle when all I needed to know was why Charles Darwin was drawn as a monkey."

Another added: "So I went to school for 12 years to do a whole paper on plants and why Charles Darwin was drawn as a monkey?? Very glad I revised hormones."

Last year the same exam board was at the centre of a social media storm over a question about teenage drinking and testing drugs on drunk rats.

This year's question related to Victorian cartoonists lampooning Darwin for his then controversial claim that man was related to monkeys through a common ancestor.

A spokeswoman for AQA said: "It's completely normal for students to tweet about their exams. We only ever ask questions about things that are covered in the syllabus."

Air pollution in Britain worse than Mexico, global health body finds

Kat Lay Health Correspondent

The death rate from air pollution in the UK is worse than in Mexico, Brazil and Argentina and twice as bad as in the United States, according to the World Health Organisation.

Indoor and outdoor air pollution was responsible for 25.7 deaths per 100,000 population in Britain, worse than in 14 other European countries.

In Mexico 23.5 deaths per 100,000 were attributable to air pollution, in Brazil it was 15.8 and in Argentina 24.6. In the United States the figure was 12.1.

In Spain there were 14.7 deaths per 100,000, in France 17.2 and in the Netherlands 24, according to WHO's annual *World Health Statistics* report.

The UK does better than every African country except Mauritius, thought to be because open fires are used to cook indoors in much of the continent.

Penny Woods, chief executive of the

British Lung Foundation, said: "Air pollution is a public health crisis hitting our most vulnerable the hardest — our children, people with a lung condition and the elderly."

She said that Britain had the technology to solve the problem and that the next government should urgently bring in a new Clean Air Act, a call that was backed by John Maingay, head of policy and public affairs for the British Heart Foundation.

The government's draft air quality plan, published this month, lacks the specific commitments needed to address the problem, campaigners have said.

Previous research has attributed about 40,000 deaths a year in the UK to air pollution.

Ireland, which has a death rate from air pollution of 14.6 per 100,000 population, is praised in the WHO report for measures such as banning smoky coal

Breathing more easily

Lowest mortality rates from air pollution (per 100,000 population)

1 Brunei	7 Iceland 6.4
Darussalam 0.2	8 United Arab
2= Sweden 0.4	Emirates 7.3
2= Australia 0.4	9 Qatar 8.9
4 New Zealand 0.5	10 Bahrain 11.1
5 Canada 5.4	...
6 Sweden 6.0	37 UK 25.7

from sale and being the first country to introduce an indoor smoking ban, in 2004. Simon Birkett, founder and director of Clean Air in London, said: "The UK's dysfunctional diesel, agriculture, housing and energy policies are largely to blame."

The WHO report also showed that Britons were among the world's biggest

drinkers, downing almost double the global average each year.

Worldwide, the average person aged 15 or older drank the equivalent of 6.4 litres of pure alcohol in 2016, according to the World Health Organisation. In Britain, the figure was 12.3 litres. Only 11 other countries reported higher alcohol consumption: Russia, Estonia, Ukraine, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Romania, Moldova, Belarus and Lithuania.

Rachel Clark, health promotions manager at the World Cancer Research Fund, said: "It is incredibly worrying that Britons are drinking almost double the global average of alcohol."

"Alcohol is highly dangerous and increases the risk of many different health conditions, including several cancers. In fact, if no one drank alcohol in the UK about 24,000 cancer cases could be prevented every year."

Four arrests over London terror plot

Fiona Hamilton
Crime and Security Editor

Four men have been arrested in London on suspicion of planning an Islamist terror attack, weeks after police thwarted two separate alleged plots.

Scotland Yard said that the men, aged 18, 24, 25 and 27, were suspected of involvement in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism. Five homes and a business in east London were being searched by MI5 and the Metropolitan Police last night in connection with the investigation.

Firearms officers were not deployed and it is understood that any attack was not thought to be imminent. The security services do not believe the plot was sophisticated or involved explosives, but was more likely to include a knife or a vehicle.

The Met said: "These arrests were pre-planned as part of an ongoing investigation by the Met's counterterrorism command and MI5. The arrests are linked to activity in the UK."

The operation comes after Khalid Ali, 27, was arrested in Whitehall last month and charged with preparing terrorist acts. Police launched a separate raid in Willesden, north London, in which Rizlaine Boular, 21, was shot. Ms Boular, Mina Dich, 43, and Khawla Barghouthi, 20, are accused of planning the UK's first all-female terrorist attack.

In March Khalid Masood, a Muslim convert, killed three people by driving into crowds on Westminster bridge before fatally stabbing PC Keith Palmer, 48. He was shot dead by an armed officer. Yesterday's operation is not linked to other recent alleged plots.

Absorbent hedges protect city streets from vehicle fumes

Ben Webster Environment Editor

Hedges can be more effective than trees at absorbing harmful air pollutants on built-up roads, a study says.

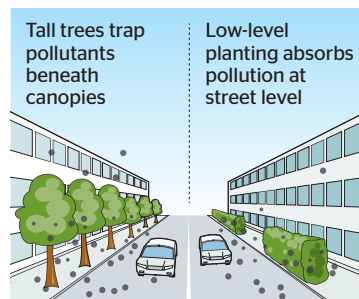
Tall trees on streets lined with large buildings can make the problem worse by trapping air pollutants beneath their canopies, researchers found.

Hedges growing close to the road can act as a shield, catching toxins on their leaves and reducing the airflow from the carriageway. Evergreen hedges of-

fered better year-round protection than those prone to seasonal changes, while green walls were also an effective way of soaking up pollution.

Prashant Kumar, the lead author of the study and professor at the University of Surrey, said that poor urban air quality was a major health issue around the world as the proportion of people living in cities was due to rise from 54 per cent in 2014 to 66 per cent by 2050.

Research by Bangor University in 2015 also found that while street trees



absorbed pollutants, they could also prevent them escaping and block the inward flow of cleaner air.

John Gallagher, a researcher from the university, said that air quality could be greatly affected by avenues of trees. He warned that it was a false assumption that more trees were good for people's health, and in some cases it could make sense to remove them.

He recommends to opt for "small narrow trees as opposed to large canopy trees", such as the London plane.

News Election 2017

Tories promise free breakfast

THE TIMES

ELECTION
2017

Sam Coates Deputy Political Editor
Nicola Woolcock
Education Correspondent

Theresa May will promise today to scrap free school lunches for infants and replace them with free school breakfasts for all primary children.

The change would be introduced in stages, potentially from September, and would save about £650 million a year that is now spent on a hot lunch for all five, six and seven-year-olds.

Primary school children from low-income families would still get free school lunches, as well as breakfasts.

The savings would be used to boost school funding by £4 billion above present spending plans. The Tories said that this would mean a real-terms increase in the schools budget between now and 2022 with no school having its budget cut in cash terms because of the new national funding formula. Schools could still receive below-inflation settlements, however.

About 10,000 schools had expected to lose cash from September next year under a funding formula announced by Justine Greening in December. It would in general have led to rural areas gaining at the expense of urban ones.

Conservative sources confirmed that the breakfasts to be provided did not need to be hot, unlike the lunches, but still had to be healthy. The announce-

ment suggests that all schools would have to open their doors earlier.

At present a nationwide industry of breakfast clubs provide pre-school care and food for infants, and the initiative calls their future into question.

A Conservative spokesman said: "We have protected and increased school funding to the highest level on record but we accept there is more we can do."

"This extra money means no child will lose out. The choice at this election is between Theresa May, offering strong and stable leadership and more money for schools, or a shambolic Jeremy Corbyn whose sums don't add up and whose nonsensical economic ideas would mean less money for schools."

The announcement widens the choice between the Tories and Labour. Mr Corbyn has promised to extend free meals to children aged seven to 11.

Research published at the end of last year backed the Conservatives' support for free breakfasts. It found that breakfast clubs for primary schools in disadvantaged areas boosted results even among pupils who did not attend.

The work, carried out by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and funded by the Educational Endowment Foundation, recorded strong improvements in maths, reading and writing for pupils aged six and seven, and lesser improvements for older primary pupils.

The universal free school meal policy in the first three years at primary school was introduced in September 2014. It was drawn up by Nick Clegg as deputy prime minister, who pushed the policy through despite rows within the coalition about its viability. It was budgeted

at £1 billion but the government spent £1.2 billion on the scheme a year later, including £200 million for small schools and capital funding to upgrade kitchen and dining facilities.

Some schools had to build kitchens, convert classrooms into dining halls or buy meals from pubs. Head teachers complained that the scheme had not been properly costed because the per-child funding had to cover furniture and extra staff as well as food.

Dame Joan McVittie, retired head of Woodside High School, north London, and an education consultant working with head teachers who are struggling with their budgets, said: "Just holding the budget steady is not going to be helpful because all the other costs have gone up. Unless there's an increase in real terms, not in cash terms, schools will still struggle. Maintained schools have been given their budgets for this year so the damage has been done."

Of the breakfast club policy, she said: "It will involve bringing in canteen staff earlier to prepare and serve breakfasts. Teachers will also have to come in earlier to supervise and someone will have to pay them for that. I welcome the government removing barriers to learning in this way, however there are knock-on implications."

Other research has suggested that schools are failing to provide enough computers or furniture because of cuts. A survey of head teachers found that primary schools were spending 3.7 per cent less on resources than last year, and secondary schools 5.7 per cent less.

David Blunkett, page 26
Iain Martin, page 27



Yesterday Theresa May said that she and Philip Hammond had worked together

May refuses to say

Sam Coates

On two occasions yesterday Theresa May refused to say whether Philip Hammond would still be chancellor if the Conservatives won the election.

Mr Hammond had admitted earlier that he had "swear conversations" with No 10 aides, appearing to confirm that he has a difficult relationship with Nick Timothy, one of Mrs May's chiefs of staff.

She used a joint press conference to declare that she was "happy" to give Mr Hammond an "endorsement" but stopped short of promising that he could stay in the job.

The pair appeared unprepared for questions about Mr Hammond's future at the event in Canary Wharf, east London, which had been called to highlight flaws in the Labour manifesto.

Last week *The Times* reported that the relationship between the chancellor and No 10—in particular Mr Timothy—had become strained.

The unravelling of the budget in March over a broken promise not to raise national insurance led to mutual recriminations between Downing Street and the Treasury.

Mr Timothy was said to be "incandescent" at briefings, blamed on Mr Hammond's aides, that he was economically illiterate.

On *Today* on BBC Radio 4 yesterday Mr Hammond said that he worked "extremely closely" with the prime minister's team. He added: "Theresa has a strong team. I work very closely with them. This is tittle-tattle."

John Humphrys, the presenter, replied: "You are not denying the swearing and angry phone calls."

Mr Hammond laughed and said: "I'm not going to say I've never occasionally sworn but I work extremely well and closely with Theresa May's team. I work extremely closely with Theresa... We are getting on with the job together as a team."

Mr Hammond's comments are thought to have caused more conflict with Mrs May's aides. Mr Hammond, along with Boris Johnson, Amber Rudd and David Davis were understood to have been given assurances that they would keep their cabinet portfolios. However Mrs May is refusing to give that commitment in public because she believes it would look complacent. The joint event two hours later in

Spreadsheet Phil wonders about a good life down at the allotment

Patrick Kidd
Political Sketch



Two years ago, at the launch of the last Tory manifesto, David Cameron promised to bring back "the good life". Or possibly *The Good Life*. There wasn't much on telly at the time and Mr Cameron's political philosophy did not run deep. Either way, he liked the phrase so much that he said it ten times.

It has taken his party a while but yesterday we finally got a new episode of *The Good Life*, one in which Margo and Jerry Leadbetter, played by Theresa May and Philip Hammond, appeared in public to address the gossip being spread about their marriage up at the pony club by Mrs Dooms-Patterson.

There was no good reason for Margo to be on the 39th floor of the Canary Wharf tower. The ostensible purpose of this gathering was to talk about how Tom Good's plans to turn Whitehall into a huge allotment and replace the royal coach with a ride-on rotary cultivator would play merry hell with house prices on The Avenue.

Jerry could have handled that perfectly well himself. Complaining about the neighbours is, after all, a boys' job, as Margo is fond of saying. There were plenty of girls' jobs that she could perform, such as

arranging the church flowers, organising the cast for the local production of *Brexit at Tiffany's* and having a word with Mr Trump about his visit to Surbiton this autumn.

But no. Rumour was at large that Jerry and Margo have had a tiff and so out they came to give a show of unity. "Are you going to stay together after the election?" someone asked. Margo giggled nervously. She must have expected this or why was she there?

"I think it's true to say," she finally said, "that Jerry and I are focused on June 8." As declarations of affection go, it was right up there with Prince Charles and his "whatever love means" moment.

Jerry said that this was all just tittle-tattle. "We work very well as a team," he said, giving Margo a simpering look. She sent one back that said: "Oh do stop grovelling, Jerry." After a few seconds he realised he had forgotten something and added: "Stronganstable." This



Jerry and Margo Leadbetter, the power couple of Home Counties conservatism

may seem piffling. Why should Margo tell inky-fingered tradesmen about whom she wants at her side after the election? Some things should be kept in the cabinet room. The trouble is that there isn't much else that she has been willing to say. Apart from "stronganstable". You have to throw the press some red meat or they will bite you.

(At least there had been some literal meat on the table before the press conference in the form of bacon rolls. I'm not suggesting that we can be bought, but just over a year ago Dan Jarvis gave a speech billed as a Labour leadership bid and served the press jugs of cucumber-infused water. You don't read much about Mr Jarvis these days.)

Back in the press conference and someone else tried the same question. This time Margo shot a frosty glare. Jerry waffled away about how they have "known each other for many years". It gave the impression of those staged photos you got in the 1990s of Tory couples at the garden gate after the minister had been in the *News of the World*.

"Well do you endorse him then?" a hack persisted. Jerry smiled a goofy grin. "We have worked together over the years," Margo repeated, sounding like an HR manager giving a reference without knowing exactly whom she is talking about. "Many years. Longer than we would care to identify."

And then she heard laughter from the room. "That was an age-related comment," Margo snapped. "Nothing else." Margo, as we all know, does not do jokes.

for every primary school pupil

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



for a long time and still worked closely but she refused to give any indication whether he would be chancellor on June 9

PM drops pledge not to raise taxes

Francis Elliott Political Editor
Sam Coates

Theresa May will today ditch David Cameron's promise not to raise income tax, VAT or national insurance.

However, she will repeat her predecessor's pledge to increase the personal allowance and raise the higher rate threshold, generating tax cuts for millions.

She will also commit a Tory government to clearing the deficit by 2025, later than previously promised.

The challenge posed by Mr Cameron's pledge was highlighted when the prime minister and Philip Hammond were forced to drop proposals in the budget to increase national insurance for the self-employed because Tory MPs were worried that it was a breach of the "tax lock" in the 2015 manifesto.

The chancellor dropped a hint last month that the tax lock would be ditched, saying that it constrained his ability to cope with the consequences of Brexit. That statement irritated No 10, which suspected Mr Hammond of seeking to tie Mrs May's hands.

The row contributed to worsening relations between Mr Hammond and Mrs May's aides but the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said that the 2015 pledge had been a bad policy.

Helen Miller and Barra Roantree, analysts at the IFS, said: "This so-called tax lock is a serious constraint because these three taxes contribute almost two thirds of tax revenues."

"A government that wanted, or thought it might be necessary, to raise additional revenues in future would be foolish to tie their hands by ruling out increases in these workhorse taxes."

Until the election was called Mr Hammond was committed to getting out of the red "as early as possible in the next parliament". That pledge was

overtaken by events as the new parliament will not now run from 2020 to 2025 but from 2017 to 2022. Instead, Mr Hammond is expected to set a target date of 2025.

Had the chancellor stuck to his original pledge and cleared the deficit by 2022 he would need to find an additional £15 billion in tax rises and spending cuts, experts have calculated.

The coalition government that came into office in 2010 had set a target of clearing the deficit by the time of the 2015 general election.

Although it will be politically embarrassing for Mrs May to admit that she has abandoned hope of balancing the books in the coming parliament, it will allow her to honour two previous tax pledges.

The prime minister would stick with plans to raise the personal tax allowance to £12,500 by 2020, a promise made in the Conservative manifesto two years ago. At present most workers are allowed to earn up to £11,500 without paying income tax.

She would also retain the target of increasing the threshold above which income taxpayers pay the higher 40p rate to £50,000 by the end of the decade. The threshold at present is £45,000.

Mr Hammond will face "a lot of challenges" in getting into the black by 2025, the head of the budget watchdog warned in March.

Robert Chote, chairman of the Office for Budget Responsibility, told the Commons Treasury committee that ministers had to explain how they expected to balance the books by the end of the next parliament.

He said that pressure would come from the rising social and healthcare costs resulting from an ageing population, even if benefits continued to be held beneath inflation.

Hammond is safe Cyberattack alert for candidates

Canary Wharf produced a series of awkward questions and answers about Mr Hammond's future.

When asked whether he would remain chancellor if the Conservatives won on June 8, Mrs May replied: "It's true to say the chancellor and I and every other member of my team are focused on June 8. Our focus is on win-

ing this general election because it matters for the future of our country."

with her team. Indeed some of them are people I've known for many, many years. We do work very well together as a team. All this media tittle-tattle is just that: media tittle-tattle."

Later Mr Hammond attempted to play down suggestions of clashes with No 10. "What I candidly admitted this morning — and my family will confirm this — was that I do occasionally swear," he said. "I wasn't referring to any particular conversation but I do occasionally swear."

George Osborne used an editorial in the *London Evening Standard*, which he edits, to claim that no senior cabinet ministers support Theresa May's pledge to reduce net migration to no more than "tens of thousands" of people a year. The article called the target "rash and economically illiterate".

It said that Mrs May should use the launch of the manifesto today to "sweep away this bad policy from the past... None of [the cabinet's] senior members supports the pledge in private and all would be glad to see the back of something that has caused the Conservative Party such public grief."

Editorials are typically written, or at least approved, by the editor.

Sean O'Neill Chief Reporter

General election candidates have been urged to step up their personal cybersecurity after attacks on a number of former MPs and email hacking during the French presidential campaign.

GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) said yesterday that it had issued guidance for candidates and party officials on how to protect their computer systems, email accounts and online profiles.

Shortly before Theresa May called the election, cybersecurity experts detected a number of phishing attacks — disguised emails seeking passwords and personal account details — on the offices of a small number of politicians.

The NCSC guidance said it had identified "phishing attacks to gain access to the online accounts of individuals that were MPs before dissolution of parliament [and] other staff who work in political parties". It warned: "Phishing attacks are likely to continue and may be sent to parliamentary email addresses, prospective parliamentary candidates and party staff."

It is understood that fewer than ten former MPs were affected in the pre-

election attacks that led to the NCSC and MI5 organising cybersecurity briefings for senior officials and IT systems managers from political parties across the UK.

Security officials fear the kind of disruption and interference that occurred during the American elections last year, when email caches from Democratic Party officials were hacked, and the recent campaign in France, when President Macron's *En Marche!* campaign fell victim to phishing emails.

Hackers based in Russia were suspected of involvement in both cases and Whitehall is alert to concerns that attempts could be made to disrupt the election here. One security source said: "We have to assume that what can happen in other western democracies could also be attempted here."

The scenario in France, when thousands of internal party documents were published on the internet just hours before the official closure of the campaign, was highlighted in the latest threat assessment. The NCSC said that *En Marche!* staff had their email accounts taken over when they clicked on a malicious link in a phishing email. This enabled the attackers to pose as

trusted staff and ensnare more victims, and seize more documents.

The cybersecurity centre has issued guidance to politicians on being alert for suspicious emails and how to respond if a malicious link is opened. A spokesman said: "The NCSC continues to offer political parties and candidates access to the best cybersecurity support. It is prudent to offer them advice if they think they have been the victim of phishing, and NCSC technical experts are available 24/7."

There is increasing concern in government about the use of cyberattacks to destabilise public life and the democratic process. Britain stepped up cybersecurity efforts after the attack on France's TV5Monde channel in April 2015, which was initially claimed by the "Cyber Caliphate" but is now widely believed to have been the work of Russian hackers. That was a step change in hostile cyberactivity.

Ben Gummer, a Cabinet Office minister, was put in charge of the government's efforts to protect democratic integrity and a £1.9 billion budget was provided for cybersecurity up to 2020. The new NCSC headquarters were opened in London this year.

Cracks widen between chancellor and No 10

© Hammond's tax intervention angers May aides © New row follows spat over national insurance

Last week The Times broke news of the trouble brewing in Downing St

ning this general election because it matters for the future of our country."

Mrs May was pressed to give an endorsement of him and said that she was "very happy to do so. As Philip says, we have worked together for many years".

Mr Hammond said: "We work very closely together. The prime minister and I have known each other for many, many years. We work very closely together. She's got an extremely strong team around her. I work very closely

News Election 2017

Legalising cannabis will raise £1bn a year in tax, say Lib Dems

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

The Liberal Democrats would legalise cannabis to raise a billion pounds in tax and ban diesel cars, under plans set out in the party's manifesto yesterday.

The party is also promising to put a penny on all bands of income tax as part of a £13.4 billion revenue-raising package to increase funding for public services and welfare. However, there will be no repeat of the Lib Dems' 2010 pledge to scrap university tuition fees. The party said that the measure was unaffordable. At the heart of the manifesto is a second referendum on Brexit, where the final deal would be put to a vote, including an option to remain in the EU.

"In June last year we voted for a departure, but we didn't vote for a destination," Tim Farron, the party leader, said at a rally in London. "Someone is going to have the final say over the Brexit deal. It could be the politicians or it could be the people. Giving you the choice over your future is exactly what our manifesto is about. The more Liberal Democrat MPs you elect, the better the deal we will get on Europe."

In a shift from the more mainstream commitments of previous elections, the Lib Dems include proposals to decrimi-

nalise prostitution, allowing police to give more time to the fight against people trafficking and child grooming.

The Lib Dems would also ensure that transgender people convicted of crimes were placed in prisons appropriate to their gender identity, and allow official documents to include an "X" option.

Under the proposals:

- The present freeze on working-age benefits would be ended and increased in line with inflation. Housing benefit would also be restored for those aged 18 to 21 and the controversial work capability assessments would be scrapped.

- Funding for the NHS and social care would be increased by £6 billion, funded by putting a penny on all income tax bands. The public sector pay freeze for NHS workers would end.
- All cuts to frontline school and college budgets would be stopped, protecting per-pupil funding in real terms and bringing in free school meals for all primary school pupils.

- The sale of diesel cars and small vans would be banned by 2025, and motorists would face ultra-low-emission zone charges in ten towns and cities.

The party acknowledged that its spending programme would require borrowing £5 billion more than government plans in 2018-19 and £14 billion

more in 2019-20. But it said that this would still allow it to meet its fiscal rules of eliminating the deficit on day-to-day spending by 2019-20 and ensuring that debt fell as a percentage of GDP year on year. Borrowing would be allowed for spending on capital investments.

According to party figures, the proposal would increase tax receipts to 37.9 per cent of GDP, compared with 37.2 per cent under the Tories' plans.

Radical policies include legalising cannabis and scrapping jail sentences for personal use of drugs. The party says that plans to create a legal market for the production and sale of cannabis would generate £1 billion in revenue and would "break the grip of the criminal gangs and protect young people".

Vowing to retain the Human Rights Act and strengthen punishments for hate crime, the party has promised to allow 50,000 more Syrian refugees into Britain and to reopen the Dubs scheme for unaccompanied child refugees.

The Lib Dems would spend £300 million to bolster local policing and require all police officers to wear body cameras. It would favour strict non-custodial sentences over short jail terms.

Other measures include offering free sanitary products to schoolgirls.

Leading article, page 29

Labour at new high after manifesto boost

Sam Coates Deputy Political Editor

Backing for Labour climbed to its highest level in the campaign so far, giving ammunition to those who want Jeremy Corbyn to stay on after the election.

A YouGov poll for *The Times* put the Conservatives on 45 per cent, down 1 point compared with last week, Labour on 32, up 2 points, the Lib Dems on 8, down 3 and UKIP on 6, up 1.

This would mean a Conservative majority of 66 if the swing to the Tories is uniformly spread across the country.

The poll was taken on Tuesday and Wednesday when the Labour manifesto launch was dominating the headlines, although the gradual rise in the Labour vote share in recent weeks also suggests a bigger shift in favour of the party since earlier in the campaign.

Anthony Wells from YouGov said: "Labour seem to be holding up because they're still getting the votes of a substantial chunk of people who don't like Corbyn and are presumably holding their noses and voting Labour anyway."

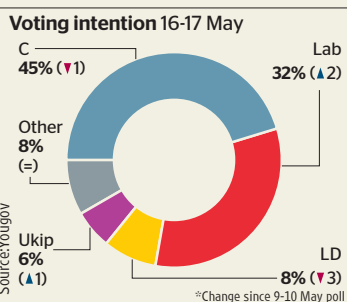
Some Labour figures believe that Mr Corbyn will be able to stay in office if he gets more than the 30.4 per cent of the vote won by Ed Miliband in the 2015 general election.

Theresa May remains the clear choice for who should be the next prime minister, although the gap has

John McDonnell said that voters should not listen to the polls



Corbyn bounce



narrowed from 28 to 23 points since last week. Some 46 per cent of voters want Mrs May in Downing Street, compared with 23 per cent who want Mr Corbyn.

John McDonnell, the shadow chancellor, said yesterday that voters should not listen to the polls.

The poll suggests voters trust Labour more than the Tories to manage the NHS, schools and housing, but prefer the Conservatives on the economy, immigration, law, tax and unemployment. Voters also think more homes are likely

to be built if there is a Labour government than a Tory one. Almost half of all voters think taxes "for people like me" will go up whether Mrs May or Mr Corbyn is in No 10. This suggests the Tories have not managed to differentiate the parties on taxation for ordinary people.

Muslims urged to use their votes

Kaya Burgess

Religious Affairs Correspondent

Imams around the country have been asked to use their sermons to urge British Muslims to vote in the election, thereby helping young people to avoid the lure of "deviant ideologies" through a sense of investment in civil life.

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB), an umbrella group with 500 affiliated mosques and Islamic bodies, has released a list of key issues affecting Muslims before the election. It has also circulated a suggested sermon for imams to deliver during Friday prayers that declares: "Muslims need to be more politically active."

IpsosMORI research suggests that 53 per cent of eligible Muslims did not vote at the 2010 general election.

Worshippers are asked to encourage their children to engage in politics so they feel invested in the community and are not "disenfranchised". Young people are urged to take part in political debate and share their views on social media.

Muslims are often portrayed in a negative light in the media, the sermon says. "It is only by being positive through our attitude, behaviour and actions that we can counterbalance this."

It tells of the rise of the far right, and of bans on the hijab and niqab across Europe. "If we do not vote carefully in our local areas and ensure that those who are not suitable to govern or be MPs are removed from power, then we will suffer even more harm."



Clive Baker, a former Lib Dem and an Out voter, is now caught in Theresa May's

Science chiefs complain

Oliver Moody Science Correspondent

Scientists are being gagged from speaking to the public by a heavy-handed government media blackout before the general election, according to leading research institutions.

Civil servants have for more than a century been barred from talking to the press in the six weeks before polling day, a practice known as purdah that is meant to stop new policies or controversies from influencing the outcome.

This year, however, the veil of silence has been cast over independent researchers in what science bodies say is the strictest purdah they can remember. Several senior scientists sitting on

government advisory panels have told *The Times* that the regime meant they could not speak out on issues such as climate change and air pollution. Some said they had been instructed not to speak to journalists, even on non-political matters.

A dozen organisations, including the Royal Institution, the Royal Statistical Society and the British Science Association, have warned that these restrictions risk hampering debate on the important scientific questions of the day.

In a letter to Sir Jeremy Heywood, the cabinet secretary, they have sought clarification about the rules amid fears that the guidance is being applied "in an ad hoc and arbitrary way which is not in

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL

Old loyalties swept away on the Riviera

ELECTION TOUR TORBAY

Hugo Rifkind

It's raining in Torbay like the Flood, but Kevin Foster, 38, who is hoping to hold his seat for the Conservatives, is out canvassing anyway. Or at least, so he claims over the phone. "Can I come and watch," I ask politely, "or would I get in the way?"

"You'd get in the way," he says.

Oh. Still, I suppose he has other things on his mind. Adrian Sanders, a Liberal Democrat, held this seat for 18 years and his party is itching to take it back. Mr Foster's short tenure has coincided with the announcement of the closure of Paignton Hospital, and although he fought to keep it open, the words "Tory cuts" do get thrown around. He also voted Remain, and 63 per cent of his constituents did not, which means that unlike many other wobbly Tory battlegrounds, Ukip is fighting here, too. Apathy may be another problem.

Pretty Torquay in the north of the bay, where Basil Fawlti once irritably plied his trade, is historically Liberal in that particular West Country way, with a Quaker Meeting House and a Methodist Church on opposite sides of a street. Stop a sodden dog-walker around here (and there are many, many sodden dog-walkers) and they're usually yellow. The richer Tory pickings are to be found along the coast in Paignton, once you've gone past the tattered Preston Conservative Club with its bi-weekly bingo evenings, into a quite different sort of town. Every fifth business seems to sell mobility aids or funerals. The predominant hair colour is the same light slate as the sky.

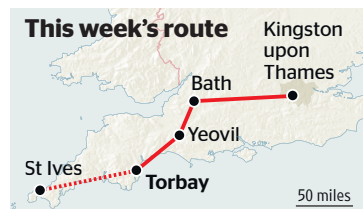
Here, Disgruntled Paignton Bookseller (this being the only name he'll give) shouts at me in full Fawlti mode for even asking about his vote, before relenting and telling me he'll vote Tory. ("Ooh, I know," I want to say, channelling Sybil, because he's reading *The Daily Telegraph*.) He also reckons they'll win. "It might be different if Farage was still running the show," he says, "but that nutty Nuttall character is a political nonentity." He stands out in Paignton, even so, because everybody else I ask tells me they won't vote at all. They range from old gents sitting outside cafés, to Paignton's only two hipsters, complete with beards and sleeve tattoos, in Paignton's only vape shop.

One more adamant Tory is Clive Baker, 75, who we meet in Torquay

harbour. He's a fisherman turned professional racing driver turned fisherman again, and he's standing in a boat full of very small dead sharks. Funny, the sentences you write in this job. He's voted Lib Dem in the past, sometimes, but he voted Out last year and he likes Theresa May. "I think she's doing a brilliant job," he says.

Down here in Devon, though, Brexit works in mysterious ways. Kyle Finnerty, 26, is selling tickets for ferries to Brixham. "I voted for Ukip in the last election and Lib Dems beforehand," he says. Now he plans to vote for the Lib Dems again, despite having voted Out, partly because he's cross about the hospital.

Deborah Brewer, the Liberal Democrat candidate, tells me that she is hearing this sort of thing quite a lot. "I'm slightly taken aback," she says, "but what they say is that they know that Brexit is going to happen anyway." She does, too, but says she'll be arguing for a softer one. "This is



my first interview with a major newspaper," she says at one point, abruptly breaking character, "and I really hope I haven't said anything ghastly?" Actually, she reels off local issues with all the clarity of a pro, but none of the platitudes. Watch out for this one, if she wins.

Torbay, she tells me, has the highest level of unemployment in the southwest ("higher than Plymouth!") and the most violent crime, too.

"We're having cut, cut, cut," she says, "and that's the bit I get cross with Kevin about. He's voting for cuts in London and then he's shocked that Paignton Hospital is closed. Well, it's not difficult to understand. You just voted for it."

This isn't Mr Foster's only recent shock. When Mrs May announced a snap election for June 8, she very rudely failed to consider the fact that he is getting married two days later. (His intended, Hazel Noonan, is 28 years his senior, leading the *Daily Mail* to call him Torbay's Macron.)

They won't be bothering with a honeymoon. "And the stag went out the window as well," he says. "But clearly we've got something to look forward to that week. Whatever happens."

about being gagged on pollution

the public interest" and is stifling freedom of academic expression.

"We cannot remember an election where purdah extended so far into the daily work of research-active scientists and we are extremely concerned that the public are being denied access to the best experts at the time when they are most needed," they wrote. "We do not believe, however, that purdah was ever intended to stop research-active scientists from commenting on breaking news or critiquing important new studies.

"These activities are an important part of the scientific process, are not political, and should not be interrupted by an election without good reason."

The criticisms were echoed by Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, the president of the Royal Society. "Independent scientists need to be just that — independent," he told *The Times*.

"If they feel constrained in their ability to help inform debate, it is society that loses out. The world does not stop because there is an election campaign, and businesses and the rest of society need evidence to help inform their opinions and decisions."

The letter, which was organised by the Science Media Centre and the Association of British Science Writers, comes just over a year after ministers executed an about-turn on an "anti-lobbying clause" that could effectively

have prevented publicly funded scientists from talking about the implications of their research.

A spokeswoman for the Cabinet Office said: "The pre-election guidelines published by the Cabinet Office provide guidance to government departments and arms-length bodies on their activities during the pre-election period.

"They maintain the impartiality of the civil service and provide assurance about the appropriate use of official resources. Their application is for individual government departments but they are not about restricting commentary from independent academics."

Leading article, page 29

RED BOX ELECTION COUNTDOWN

MATT CHORLEY



It won't wash

Philip Hammond, the out-of-sorts chancellor, brushed aside claims that he was in the boss's bad books, insisting that he had been discussing "boy jobs and girl jobs" with the PM's husband, Philip. In the Hammond household, changing the car screen wash is a man's role. "I have offered to show my wife how to do it," Mr Hammond told ITV's *Good Morning Britain*. "She doesn't want to know." Will he have more time to spend in the garage after June 8?

Labour's poster boy

Peter Walsh, a Red Box reader, has been in touch to say that as a Labour Party member in Vauxhall, south London, he was sent a letter asking him to "display the enclosed poster" to show his support. "Unfortunately," Mr Walsh said, "a) they hadn't put a poster in and b) they hadn't put enough postage on so I had to pay £1.50 to receive it." That's Corbynomials for you.

Killer instinct

A Tory agent in a target seat has sent a message to opponents: don't mess with me. Tony Homewood, in Labour-held Wakefield, called into BBC Three Counties radio to boast about his time as an "executions consultant" in the 1990s, after the Americans needed "someone who knew something about hanging" for serial killer Westley Allan Dodd. "I orchestrated the execution of people and I didn't lose any sleep over it." Orchestrating an election campaign must be tame by comparison.

Sign up for your morning briefing at times.co.uk/redbox/signup

He said what?

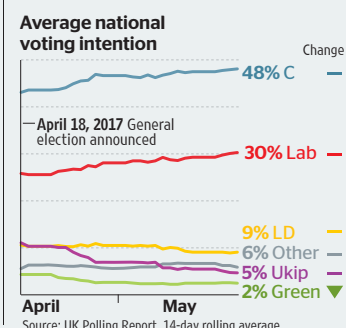
"The NHS will last", Jeremy Corbyn tweeted, quoting Nye Bevan no less, "as long as there's folk with faith left to fight for it." The one problem? Bevan never said it. Instead it comes from a TV drama, *Food for Ravens*, which was on in 1997, just 37 years after Bevan died. More fake news.



Drunk on power

Having kept a low profile of late, Boris Johnson emerged to talk up the prospects of exporting Scotch whisky ... at a Sikh temple in Bristol, offending the worshippers, who abstain from alcohol. "Once he was a clown, now he is a calamity. He is an incompetent and a blunderbuss," said Labour's Stephen Pound, doing his best impression of Mr Johnson the thesaurus-eater.

Poll of polls



Investigation into parties' use of social media data

Mark Bridge
Technology Correspondent

The information commissioner has begun an investigation into how political parties use information about people to target their campaigns.

It follows concerns about the use of data by the Leave campaign in the EU referendum. It has been claimed that Cambridge Analytica, an American company, helped the Leave.eu campaign group to scrape reams of personal data from people's Facebook pages without their knowledge.

Elizabeth Denham, the information commissioner, has indicated that may be breaking data protection laws, even if the information is publicly available.

In February Andy Wigmore, of Leave.eu, told *The Observer* that Cambridge Analytica, which was also involved in Donald Trump's campaign, had offered its services free and had helped the campaign to build intimate profiles of voters using artificial intelligence. The company denies this.

Mr Wigmore said: "Using artificial intelligence, as we did, tells you all sorts of things about that individual and how to convince them with what sort of advert. And you knew there would also be other people in their network who liked

what they liked, so you could spread. And then you follow them. The computer never stops learning and it never stops monitoring. It is creepy!"

In a blog post yesterday, Ms Denham wrote: "[The investigation] will involve deepening our current activity to explore practices deployed during the UK's EU Referendum campaign but potentially also in other campaigns."

She referred political parties to guidelines stating that: "While people might expect that the electoral register is used for election campaigns they may well not be aware of how other data about them can be used and combined in complex analytics. If a political organisation is collecting data directly from people or obtains it from another source, it has to tell them what it is going to do with the data."

Vikki Hoyle, of Walker Morris, the solicitors, said: "It is the use of micro-targeting by the Leave campaign and in particular the claims by Cambridge Analytica that it can 'find your voters and move them to action'... which has caught the ICO's attention and led to this formal investigation."

A spokesman for Cambridge Analytica said that it "had no involvement in last year's EU referendum and did no work for any of the campaigns".

News Election 2017

Ramshackle social care close to total collapse, warn experts

Rachel Sylvester, Alice Thomson

There are chickens in the garden, a cat's bowl at the entrance and a list of the day's activities that includes keep fit classes, choir and cooking.

At Hyman Fine House in Brighton the elderly can come as a couple, invite their grandchildren to visit and hold dances. The home is two minutes from

Brighton beach where they can go for a stroll or visit a beachside café. For lunch there is chicken pie and banana and cinnamon sponge.

Natasha Carson, the manager, loves her job but says: "We could never run this as a business. We run at a deficit but have charitable donations and contributions as we are run by Jewish Care. To make money you'd have to do more



Gloria Sachs has plenty to occupy her at Hyman Care Home in Brighton

than cut corners. Across the sector there is an emergence of a two-tier system between those who can pay themselves and those who can't."

She feels the pressure growing all the time. "People increasingly come when they are very frail in the last year or so of life. Many families and elderly people are put off care homes but being in your own home or in hospital can be far more lonely. Here they are surrounded by other people and activities. When it comes to end of life, almost everyone chooses to die here if they can as they are in comfortable and familiar surroundings."

Politicians usually choose to kiss babies on the campaign trail rather than cuddle dementia patients, but social care has for the first time become a major issue for all the parties at this election. The Liberal Democrats have already promised to put a penny on income tax to fund improvements.

Labour has pledged £3 billion a year to create a new National Care Service. The Tories will set out their plans today, including a promise that people will always be able to pass on at least £100,000 after social care costs have been met — funded partly by means-testing winter fuel payments.

The voters have started to realise that the system is in crisis. An ageing population, with increasingly complex health problems, has created growing demand at a time when services have been slashed. The Care Quality Commission warned last year that social care was reaching a "tipping point", with cruelty and neglect on the rise and many residential homes close to bankruptcy. According to Age UK, there are now almost 1.2 million people over 65 who do not receive the care support they need with essential living activities — a 17.9 per cent increase on last year and a 48 per cent rise since 2010.

Although the Treasury announced an extra £2 billion for social care over the next three years in the budget, many experts believe this was too little, too late. Local government care budgets had already been cut by £5.5 billion and, according to the King's Fund health think tank, even with the extra cash there will still be a shortfall of £600 million this year, just to maintain current provision, rising to £2.1 billion by 2020.

What makes this issue so politically toxic is the impact that the social care failings are having on the NHS. With elderly people stuck in hospital because there is nowhere for them to go in the community, nearly one in ten NHS beds is now taken by someone who is well enough to go home. Between August 2010 and July last year, the number of days of delay in being discharged had increased by 181.7 per cent from 12,777 to 35,994.

Caroline Abrahams, chief executive of Age UK, believes that politicians are picking up on growing public concern. "People increasingly know somebody who's affected by the problems," she says. "The NHS is the canary in the mine — it's very difficult for people to see social care need but if it means your operation is cancelled or A&E is full, then that really brings it home."

There is a postcode lottery, she warns. "We think there's a tangible risk of total collapse of the social care system in some parts of the country. This isn't just a financial problem, it's also a moral and emotional issue about how we live as a society. We've air-brushed older people out."

Care "blackspots" are developing in



some of the poorest regions because providers, who are heavily dependent on private fees to subsidise state-funded places, can no longer afford to deliver services. Last year 77 councils reported that at least one care home had ceased trading in their area and 31 had seen a provider "handing back" a contract. About 2,000 beds are being lost a year, with the analysts LaingBuisson warning that care homes will run out of beds for vulnerable elderly people within two or three years.

Martin Green, the chief executive of Care England, which represents independent providers, says: "There's a perfect storm. The government has put quite a lot of money in but they have no mechanism to make local authorities deliver the money to the front line. In Doncaster the council is paying £2.31 an hour for residential care. There are lots of providers now that are close to the edge. Many are just leaving the market rather than going bust. It's completely unsustainable."

The introduction of the national living wage, which is set to add at least

up to
half price

Kate
DFS Designer

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‘We’d be better off if he was in prison’

Josephine Page’s husband Jeremy, a former Home Office civil servant, has Alzheimer’s disease and is in a care home near their home in Brockenhurst, Hampshire. Now 65, he has always been well-treated but the financial and emotional strain is enormous.

“They charge £45,000 a year and there are extra costs — toiletries and clothes, as well as my petrol to get there, and now I need to buy him a wheelchair,” she says. “We’d be better off if Jeremy were out in the community and bonked a policeman on the head and got sent to prison. Then everything would be free.”

“If you have cancer, obesity, diabetes or a brain tumour everything is taken care of on the NHS but if you get Alzheimer’s you are on your own. Dementia is like a bereavement without death. There are days when I just sit and weep and other days when I just get on with it.”

John, a carpenter from Birmingham, has had problems with the social care system since his father had dementia diagnosed two years ago at the age of 64.

The family has had to sell his home to pay for residential care,



Josephine Page and Jeremy, who is in a care home. Below: performing before the onset of Alzheimer’s

costing £1,400 a week. “We tried to look after him ourselves but we just couldn’t do it. My dad was quite a physical man. Within a week of going into a care home he jumped over the fence and got out. The staff found him but he

soon escaped again and this time he broke his foot. They made him walk back to the home. There was no sense of compassion — all they wanted was to make a profit.”

John said that he heard staff shouting and swearing at other residents. “There was no respect. I would come and see him and he would be sitting in the TV lounge looking dreadful with food all over his face and down his clothes.

“I went there one day and he had soiled himself but the staff were too busy on their mobile phones — they were not doing their jobs properly.

“When you talk about a care home it’s the first word that’s the most important but dad wasn’t cared for at all. You wouldn’t treat a dog like that.”

VIDEO

Josephine Page on why the government should make social care more affordable
On mobile, tablet and at thetimes.co.uk

May’s plan rejected as slap in face for families

Analysis

Theresa May has promised to find a “long-term solution” to social care but it will be argued that the proposals in the Conservative manifesto will do nothing to deal with the fundamental unfairness in the system (Rachel Sylvester and Alice Thomson write).

Instead of spreading the risk across the population with a cap on costs — a form of social insurance — the Tories have opted for a floor, which means that everybody will be able to hand on at least £100,000 to their children but there will be no upper limit to what families have to pay. Nobody will lose everything, but some will still have to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds for care.

Sir Andrew Dilnot, former head of the UK Statistics Authority who was chairman of the commission on long-term care, which reported in 2011, said: “It’s extremely disappointing that no attempt is being made to provide risk-pooling or social insurance. People will still be left to manage the risk to which they are exposed.”

He said that the Conservative manifesto did nothing to address the “market failure” in the system. “It’s a bit like saying ‘You can’t insure your house so if your house burns down, it’s entirely your problem. If you spend everything and all you have left is £100,000 we will start helping you.’”

The scheme will do little to allay the anxiety of elderly people who worry about the spiralling costs of care because there will be no way of predicting or controlling the threat to their finances.

Care costs are a lottery and the plan does not resolve the fundamental imbalance that means that somebody with cancer has all their care paid for but a patient with Alzheimer’s has to fund everything. One senior figure described it as a “slap in the face” to the elderly and their relatives.

The proposals will mean many more people being forced to contribute to the cost of care, since people being looked after at home, rather than in residential care, will in future be brought into the means test that determines who should receive government support.

The Dilnot commission called for a £35,000 cap on care costs. The coalition legislated for an upper limit of £72,000 but this was shelved in 2015 by David Cameron’s government.

The manifesto pledge also represents a shift towards taxing wealth rather than work, with implications for inheritance. It will be possible to defer payment until after an elderly person’s death but their families will still be responsible for meeting the costs above £100,000. There will be no upper limit, meaning that many relatives will need to sell the family home to pay for the care.

The Tories will not be calling it a “death tax”, but the fears are that it will be a levy paid from beyond the grave.

£2 billion a year to workforce costs by 2020, has increased pressure on a system that is heavily reliant on low-paid workers. Recruitment is a problem for jobs that are stressful and offer little financial reward. Turnover rates have risen from 22.7 per cent to 27.3 per cent in the past three years.

Mike Padgham has run St Cecilia’s Nursing Home in Scarborough for 25 years. He says that Brexit will add to the difficulties. “Without European nurses and carers we will struggle to recruit. I feel sorry for families who have to pay.”

Relatives are also under financial and emotional pressure. There are now more than two million carers aged 65 and over, 417,000 of whom are over 80. A recent Alzheimer’s Society investigation found that the typical person’s bill for dementia care would take 125 years to save for.

Jeremy Hughes, the society’s chief executive, says: “Dementia is a disease, as cancer is a disease, as heart disease is a disease. Getting dementia shouldn’t mean families are left bankrupt or destitute with nothing to leave behind.”

Public opposed to new death dues

Sam Coates Deputy Political Editor

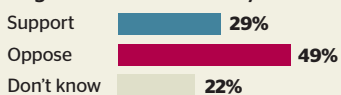
The public is hostile to the idea that people should have to pay more out of their estates to fund long-term care for the elderly, a YouGov poll for *The Times* suggests.

Today Theresa May will announce that those who receive care at home will be able to defer the cost until after they die. The balance must then be met from their entire estate, including their home, with only the last £100,000 protected by the government.

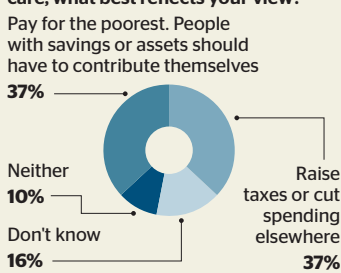
The YouGov poll found that 49 per cent opposed the idea of an extra tax on assets left after death to pay for funding long-term care for the elderly. Some 29 per cent supported this proposal which is similar to the plan to be announced by Mrs May, though not identical as hers is not a “tax”.

Three quarters of the public would have supported the previous Tory plan

Q Do you support or oppose an extra tax on the assets people leave after they die to pay for the funding of long-term care for the elderly?



Q Considering how the government pays for long-term residential care, what best reflects your view?



— a cap on the amount anybody should have to pay for their care in old age, according to the poll. YouGov found that 74 per cent of voters supported the cap, while only 16 per cent opposed it.

The public were evenly split on whether the government should fund a more generous system. Some 37 per cent said that the government should pay for the long-term care of everyone, even if this meant higher taxes or lower spending elsewhere, and the same proportion said that the government should pay only for the long-term care of the poorest, while those with savings or assets should contribute to the cost.

Asked how they would prefer for care costs to be paid, 60 per cent would like a scheme allowing people to buy insurance against the cost of long-term care, while 57 per cent said that there should be an increase in the basic rate of income tax from 20 to 21 per cent.

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Don't be fooled by shoddy new homes, Allsopp warns buyers

David Byers

For nearly two decades the television presenter Kirstie Allsopp has been guiding the nation's house-hunters around homes of every calibre and age, from chic to tumbledown, Tudor to Edwardian.

Now she has a message for today's buyers — don't waste your money on "shoddy" new builds.

Allsopp, 45, has attacked the quality of properties built from the late-1980s onwards, claiming that some are of poorer quality, designed for the short term and more likely to be prone to flooding when global temperatures change.

The presenter of Channel 4's *Location, Location, Location* spoke after becoming enraged by a social media post from a new-build website, which claimed that residents of older homes were likely to spend more than £50,000 repairing them.

The New Homes site, developed by the Home Builders Federation, had tweeted a diagram of an old house, annotating it with the cost of repairing everything from insulation to plastering, and totting it up to £51,643. An accompanying tweet read: "Avoid the money pit & buy new, or you could find yourself spending up to £51,643 on upgrading an older property to the same standard!"

Allsopp plans to report the post to the Advertising Standards Authority and described the claims, and costing, as "totally misleading and untrue". She and Phil Spencer, her co-presenter, say the repair prices appeared inflated and were also unrealistic because no homeowner would have to fix their entire house at once.

Speaking while filming in Bristol, she said that many older houses — particularly those from her favourite stock, the mid-Victorian era — were far sturdier than many new builds and needed fewer repairs. "I have seen some really

shoddy new builds. Something being new is no guarantee it's any good," she said. "I think it is misleading and irresponsible."

Claiming older homes were often more durable and spacious, she added: "I go up and down the country and I am seeing a lot of older properties that have been standing for 150 years or more. I do not know the last time I saw a new build that I thought would stand for 150 years. I don't think I have."

The Times has recently reported on defects in a host of new-build properties. Cases included residents in Guildford, Surrey, discovering problems with their flat roof while another group, in Bristol, found their houses were not properly insulated. A further resident, from Truro in Cornwall, reported his home flooded in 2013 within eight weeks of moving in.

Allsopp, who lives in a 1950s home, claims the building quality of homes "falls off" from the late 1980s and early 1990s. She added that with temperatures expected to change because of global warming in the coming decades, poorly built new homes would be at a greater risk of flooding. "We are going to have more storms and floods as a result of climate change. In my view the older houses are more likely to cope with this," she said.

She also complained that it was misleading to claim that buying a home was in any way a cheap option, given stamp duty, legal and surveyor costs. "Misleading people over the cost of upgrading their homes is just wrong. I am filming in Bristol. From the survey they [the couple looking for a home] were told that £27,000 of work needed to be done to the house."

The Home Builders Federation said that New Homes was "proper research" and added that its researcher had gained "conservative estimates" before coming up with the repair costs.

Stewart Baseley, executive chairman of the federation, said: "Buyers of new-



build homes enjoy a huge number of benefits over those purchasing a second-hand home. During the buying process customers will receive a high level of service and support from

trained sales staff. Upon moving into a property that is designed for modern living there are all the advantages of living in a home with brand new fixtures and fittings and the latest

The Location, Location, Location presenter has threatened to report the Home Builders Federation to the Advertising Standards Authority for "totally misleading" claims about the hidden costs of older houses

energy efficiency technologies. This report helps to highlight the hidden savings that buyers of new-build homes make. While most people have a budget put aside to get the little jobs done, costs soon add up when you need to replace a bathroom or a kitchen.

"£50,000 is a lot of money by anyone's standards and this new research emphasises just how much new-build homebuyers really get for their money."

Allsopp is far from shy and retiring. The presenter, whose programme first aired as the property boom gathered pace in 2000, has been involved in public rows on subjects including airport security stopping her putting her zip-up toiletry bag through hand luggage, defending the conduct of Madeleine McCann's parents, and a Twitter argument with Kay Burley, the Sky News presenter, over the quality of media tributes to the life of George Michael.

Matt Wilson, a spokesman for the Advertising Standards Authority, said that by yesterday afternoon it had yet to receive any complaint.

Revision boost for rosemary

Sales of rosemary oil have risen after research suggested that it could help children studying for exams.

Holland & Barrett, the health food chain, said that sales had almost doubled after a small-scale trial published by Northumbria University this month showed that exposure to the smell of rosemary could help to boost children's memory.

Sales of rosemary essential oil in the week the study was released were up 187 per cent compared with the same week last year and up 270 per cent on the week before, the retailer said.

In the Northumbria study 40 children aged 10 and 11 were given mental tasks in either a room that had rosemary oil diffused in it for ten minutes or one that had no aroma. Children in the scented room achieved higher scores, with the biggest difference in a test that asked them to recall words.

No memorial donation from police union

Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

The Police Federation has not donated to the national memorial for officers killed in the line of duty.

A public appeal was launched yesterday to try to raise £1.5 million to construct an interactive and educational memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

The Police Memorial Trust, led by former senior officers, has the backing of the Duke of Cambridge and has already raised £2.5 million, including £1 million from the government. However, none of the cash has come from the national staff association.

The disclosure caused surprise at the federation's annual conference yesterday, where tribute was paid to PC Keith Palmer, murdered in the Westminster attack in March, and other officers who have died in the past 12 months.

The reluctance to provide funding has struck some of the memorial's

advocates as particularly odd given that federation local branches have tens of millions of pounds in previously unpublished "number two" accounts. The federation is reforming its approach to finances and such monies will be directed to the national board.



The memorial will be set in gardens

While some local branch boards have made individual donations, they are understood to amount to only a few thousand pounds. Individual officers have also donated. The federation's leadership supports a donation being made but nothing has been paid from

the national board because that would require agreement from each of the 43 branches in England and Wales.

Some have been reluctant because there is already a police memorial in central London. However, the new project is far more ambitious and will include historical information, landscaped gardens and areas for reflection.

Lord Stevens of Kirkwhelpington, the former Metropolitan Police commissioner and patron of the memorial, told the conference yesterday: "It cannot be right that such an important tribute to our lost colleagues is just funded by government, the media and members of the public."

The Times understands that the trust's suggestion that the federation underwrite the project was rejected even when it was assured that all the funds would eventually be returned.

Steve White, the federation's chairman and a trustee of the memorial, said he was sure a donation would be made.

Rose garden faces closure

The Royal National Rose Society, the world's oldest national plant society, has gone into administration.

Founded in 1876, the charity was dedicated to the cultivation and conservation of roses and has been responsible for classifying new rose types.

Its Gardens of the Rose near St Albans, Hertfordshire, showcases more than 12,000 rose bushes and more than 5,000 varieties.

The charity said that administrators had been appointed and that all members, stakeholders and creditors would be contacted shortly.

It had been hoped that a £500,000 redesign of the gardens in 2007 would revive its fortunes but the society made a loss of £36,000 for the year to December 31, 2015. The gardens usually open to the public for two months and had been due to reopen on June 10. It is unclear whether that will happen.

News

Cinema big shots clash over Netflix

On screen Will Smith has battled hostile aliens and ravening zombies. At the Cannes Film Festival he has settled for a clash with a Spanish director (Jack Malvern writes).

The Hollywood actor has found himself at loggerheads with Pedro Almodóvar over whether Netflix is having a destructive effect on cinemas.

The pair, who are both on the jury for the Palme d'Or, clashed publicly at a press conference over whether two films backed by the streaming service should be part of the competition. *The Meyerowitz Stories*, starring Emma Thompson and Dustin Hoffman, and *Okja*, starring Tilda Swinton and Jake Gyllenhaal, will be shown on Netflix

without a cinema release in France. Their inclusion in the festival upset French cinema owners, who lobbied successfully for a change in the rules to ensure that all contenders will be released on the big screen in future.

Smith, 48, said he saw no problem with the inclusion of the films. "I have a 16-year-old and an 18-year-old and a 24-year-old," he said. "They go to the movies twice a week and they



Will Smith and Pedro Almodóvar with Jessica Chastain, a fellow member of the jury. Above, Monica Bellucci opens the festival. Left, Tilda Swinton in *Okja*

watch Netflix. There's very little cross between going to the cinema and watching what they watch on Netflix. It's not as if they would have gone to the cinema if it wasn't on Netflix: it's two completely different forms of entertainment.

In my house Netflix has been an absolute benefit because they get to watch films that they never even would have seen. There are movies that aren't on a screen within 8,000 miles of them, and now they get to find those artists."

His words contradicted a statement read out by Almodóvar a few minutes earlier, in which he all but ruled out a victory for *Okja* or *The Meyerowitz Stories*.

"I personally do not conceive of the Palme d'Or or any other prize

being given to a film and then not being able to see this film on the big screen," the director, who is chairman of the jury, said. "For as long as I live, I'll be fighting for one thing that I'm afraid the new generation is not aware of: it's the

capacity to be hypnotised by the big screen."

He said that films should not be viewed for the first time on a screen "smaller than the chair in which you are sitting" and that they should be seen at a dedicated venue rather than be "part of your everyday setting". He added: "You must feel small and humble in front of the image that is here to captivate you."

Smith retorted that his children went to the cinema "to be humble in front of a certain image, and there's other films that they prefer to watch at home".

Boy who found James Bulger's body paid with a life of crime, judge told

Fariha Karim

A drug dealer who as a teenager found the body of the murdered toddler James Bulger and claims the discovery led to a life of crime has been jailed for a string of driving offences.

Terence Riley, who was then 13, and his older brother James, stumbled upon the two-year-old's body on a railway line at Walton, Liverpool, in February 1993. It was 48 hours after the child had vanished from the Strand shopping centre, two miles away.

At the time, his older brother, who was 14, described how "terrible" it was finding the body, which had been beaten with bricks, stones and a piece of metal by the child's two ten-year-old killers, before being placed on the track, where it was hit by a train.

Riley, 37, was jailed for 12 months after leading police on a late-night chase in which he drove through a

20mph zone in Merseyside at 50mph, claiming that he was "high" after a party last April.

The chase ended with him losing control and smashing head on into a car carrying Darren Evans, Tina Barnes and their 11-year-old son. The couple were treated for cuts, bruises and chest pain, while the child was left shaking and feeling sick.

Liverpool crown court was told that it was the latest in a line of convictions, including one for dangerous driving in 2004. In 2009 he was jailed for 12 years after being extradited from the Netherlands over a £4 million drug conspiracy while working for a Liverpool gangster, David Hibbs-Turner. He was sentenced to a further 18 months after failing to pay back £30,000 of his gains.

This week, after admitting dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, driving without insurance and failing to provide a blood sample, he was jailed

and banned from driving for a further two and a half years. Judge Anil Murray accepted that he may have suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder linked to his discovery of the toddler.

The claim has been aired in the courts before. Representing Riley in the 2009 case, Louise Santamera said: "He



Terence Riley was 13 when he made the gruesome discovery

has seen things which no young person should have to see. Of course, finding James Bulger's body on the railway line, without any counselling, was bound to have some effect on such a young person." In 2010, his older brother appeared at Liverpool crown court for

stealing a bottle of brandy. He had a criminal record of 47 convictions and claimed that it was all due to finding the dead child. Brendan Carville, his lawyer, said: "The horror of what he found on that occasion with his brother and two friends is something he has lived with ever since. Rather than taking advantage of counselling and the like he turned to alcohol and drugs."

On Tuesday, Liverpool crown court was told that officers in an unmarked car saw a Ford Focus speed down a road and switched on their sirens.

Terence Riley accelerated to 40mph, leaving behind "dust and debris". He then undertook and overtook other vehicles at 50mph in the residential 20mph zone.

The judge said that he had taken account of Riley's "bad record" and that a pre-sentence report indicated that he "didn't seem to appreciate the risks of driving that way".

To save the oceans, use more plastic

Ben Webster Oceans Correspondent

Products may need to contain more plastic, not less, to reduce the overall amount polluting the ocean, according to Dame Ellen MacArthur.

The yachtswoman, who broke the record for the fastest solo circumnavigation of the globe in 2005, will announce two \$1 million (£770,000) prizes today for ways of making plastic more recyclable or easier to reuse.

She said that flimsy plastic items, such as plastic cups and trays, were less likely to be reused than those that were more robust. Plastic film used in packaging was also very difficult to recycle and could be replaced by thicker plastic, she added.

"Using less could be contradictory because it may mean materials won't be recycled," she said. "Globally, only 14 per cent of plastic packaging is collected for recycling, with one third escaping collection and ending up in the environment. If we want to change this, we must fundamentally rethink the way we make and use plastics."

The Ellen MacArthur Foundation, which campaigns to reduce waste, has predicted that the oceans could contain more plastic than fish by weight by 2050. The prizes have been funded by Wendy Schmidt, wife of Eric, the Google chairman, and will be awarded jointly with the Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit.

The \$1million Circular Design Challenge invites applicants to find alternatives to disposable plastic packaging, such as shampoo sachets, wrappers, straws and coffee cup lids. The Circular Materials Challenge, with the same prize money, seeks ways to make all plastic packaging recyclable.

Masked intruder terrorises family and steals cereal bar

A family in Northamptonshire got a shock and baffled the RSPCA this week when they found an inquisitive raccoon going through their possessions.

Marek Chapanionek, 44, blamed the cat when he heard noises upstairs as he defrosted his freezer at home in Horton late on Monday night. "I heard some banging upstairs and just assumed it was Dotty messing around," he said.

"Then I heard her run down the stairs and straight out the cat flap."

Knowing that his wife Caroline, 47, was in bed, Mr Chapanionek went to investigate. His 19-year-old daughter,

Katherine, a student at Reading University, was away but the door to her bedroom was ajar. "Then I saw him, this shady creature, sat in the hallway," Mr Chapanionek said. "He was looking through my wife's bag."

After stealing a cereal bar from the handbag the raccoon ran into Katherine's bedroom. "He started rummaging around in the drawers," Mr Chapanionek said. "I tried to shoo him away, but he just hissed back at me."

The raccoon, whose species is native to America, was "incredibly inquisitive", he said, and he was able to lure it



The thief was taken away by an officer

downstairs and into Dotty's transport box. "He must have been someone's pet," Mr Chapanionek said.

He called the RSPCA, which sent an officer to collect it in the morning. "In his 29 years working there he had never seen a raccoon in someone's house," Mr Chapanionek said. "I had to work from home, I think my boss was quite confused when I explained it to him."

Mr Chapanionek said that despite the mess he had liked the visitor. "He was a wonderfully curious creature, but I don't think we could have a raccoon and a cat at the same time," he said.

Happy landings: peace plan for passenger legroom

Valentine Low

Along with the garden fence and the parking space it is one of the most acrimonious areas known to man — the four inches of legroom on an aeroplane that can disappear when the passenger in front reclines their seat.

Two law professors have carried out a study on how best to resolve the conflict and concluded that the way to keep the peace is to get passengers to pay each other for the right to recline their seat.

The problem at the heart of every argument is who owns the space. Even the US authors of the blog on the Economics website are divided.

Christopher Buccafusco, a professor at Cardozo School of Law in New York, thinks that people who recline are misguided and “don’t get nearly enough pleasure from reclining to offset the suffering they’re inflicting”.

However, his colleague Christopher Jon Sprigman, a professor at New York University, enjoys reclining and “doesn’t care if those in front of him do likewise”.

When they ran a series of experi-

ments the results were confusing. In one they asked people to imagine they were on a six-hour flight from New York to Los Angeles. How much money would they accept not to recline — and how much would they pay to stop the person in front reclining? People wanted an average of \$41 (£31) not to recline but would pay only \$18 to stop someone reclining.

When they changed the experiment, saying that passengers did not have an automatic right to recline but had to negotiate to get it, the result was the other way round: would-be recliners would pay only \$12, while the person in the seat behind would sell their legroom only for \$39.

It was, they said, a common finding. “People generally don’t like losing things they have,” they wrote. “When a resource is provided to them as a default — even something as trivial as a pen — people tend to be unwilling to part with it.”

“As a consequence, the least amount of money they are willing to accept to give it up is often much greater than the amount that they would be

willing to pay to purchase the same item.”

They added: “We are left with the puzzle of why people seem unwilling to bargain over a resource that at least some people are willing to fight over.”

When they asked if people would be prepared to offer the person in front a drink or snack, which cost about \$8 on US airlines, not to recline, they found that 36 per cent of people sitting behind were prepared to make such an offer and 78 per cent of the people in front were willing to accept it.

“People are more likely to end up with an efficient distribution of seat space when bartering with booze than



Travellers feeling squeezed should offer a drink to the person in front

with bucks,” the professors said. They concluded that airlines should charge for drinks and snacks and allow passengers to buy them from each other.

“Nobody likes the recent turn toward airlines charging for every service, but maybe what we need is more of that. Most airlines still hand out free drinks, and sometimes little bags of pretzels. Maybe instead they should charge for them and allow passengers to purchase them for one another,” they said.

“Everyone wins. Seat recline space is efficiently allocated. Airlines are marginally further from bankruptcy. And no one gets punched in the face.”

TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

Timely advice for Labour

Barry Gardiner, the shadow trade secretary, is one of Jeremy Corbyn’s most trusted lieutenants. He comes across as rather mild mannered, unlike his father, Jackie, who played football for Great Britain at the 1936 Olympics. Britain were beaten 5-4 by Poland in a quarter-final tie in which the combative Glaswegian was given his marching orders. *The Guardian* reported that he had been “sent off for kicking God”, although that was a trademark typo. They meant the Poland striker Hubert Gad. After the Olympics, Gardiner taught a young Alex Ferguson. The future Manchester United manager complained when an opponent bit him during a match. “Bite him back,” Gardiner advised. A new tactic for Labour?

At last a politician who says what he really wants, rather than what tests well with a focus group. Rory Stewart, the international development minister, was asked by the *New Statesman* to name one thing that would make his life better. “A full-size, fully functioning Batmobile [below],” he replied.

BERCOW’S FAITHFUL FANS

John Bercow will have an easy re-election as an MP. Following custom, the Speaker has been given a clear run by the main parties but the Lib Dems briefly threatened to stand, which led to four donors shovelling £20,000 his way. The new register of interests shows that Bercow, who was first elected as a Tory, got £5,000 from Lord Levy, a former Labour chief fundraiser, and £5,000 from Sir David Garrard, who has given £116,000 in the past year to Labour MPs such as Tom Watson



and Yvette Cooper. That may not endear Bercow to the Tory benches when it comes to re-electing him as Speaker on June 13.

The register also reveals George Osborne’s earnings as a tongue for hire. In his last six weeks as an MP, he earned £200,000 from speeches, taking his tally since the end of September to about £1.14 million. I guess all his predictions of economic disaster should Britain vote to leave the EU didn’t quite come true.

SHURELY SHOME MISHTAKE

The election may make it tricky for ministers to visit the Cannes Film Festival but it used to be a prized junket. In 1998 Tom Clarke, then the minister for film, went out for a week. The Lanarkshire MP amused the press with a gaffe when he saw a poster for Burt Reynolds’s latest film. Gesturing at the moustachioed American’s beaming face, he said: “Look, it’s my countryman, Sean Connery.”

David Fuller sends in an entry for our series on childish innocence. Some years ago his daughter asked her mother: “What is a penis?” Embarrassed, the mum explained reproduction. The child looked confused and said that didn’t answer why on Play School they had just said there would be no sing-song today because the penis was ill.

DETERMINED CHARMER

At the launch of his latest novel last week Joseph Connolly told some witty stories about a friend who is an ageing Casanova. After a heart scare, his doctor told him to put his affairs in order. “Well that’s rather hard,” the geriatric playboy replied. “Each has a charm all of her own.” This chap, Connolly continued, is also growing forgetful. He now wanders up to pretty girls in bars saying: “Hello gorgeous, do I come here often?”

PATRICK KIDD

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More people in work but wages fail to keep up with inflation

Philip Aldrick Economics Editor

Real wages have fallen for the first time in 30 months despite a drop in unemployment to a level last recorded in 1975.

The Office for National Statistics said that earnings growth excluding bonuses fell by 0.2 per cent in the three months to March, after accounting for inflation. Regular pay growth slipped to 2.1 per cent in March and on Tuesday figures showed that inflation jumped to 2.7 per cent last month. Inflation has accelerated since the Brexit vote as the fall in sterling has driven up the cost of imports.

The bleak news on incomes underscored the unusual dynamics in the labour market, as jobs growth has continued to race ahead. "Britain kicked off 2017 with a renewed jobs boom and a painful pay squeeze," the Resolution Foundation, a think-tank, said.

Unemployment fell to 4.6 per cent in March, from 4.7 per cent, as 122,000 more people found work in the past three months, the ONS said. The employment rate, which measures the proportion of working-age people in jobs, hit another record of 74.8 per cent. At 31.9 million, the total number of Britons in work was also at its highest level.

Britain's labour market is now tighter than it has been in four decades, with the number of people out of work per vacancy slipping below two for the first time on record.

At such low levels of unemployment, wages would normally be expected to rise rapidly. Instead they are roughly half the average pace of growth experienced before the financial crisis.

Pay rises have struggled to break through 2.5 per cent since the recession, leaving living standards exposed to the risk of rising inflation that has materialised since last June's European Union referendum. However, the persistently weak rate of wage growth has been attributed to Britain's poor productivity, which predates the Brexit vote.

Official productivity figures released yesterday suggested that there was little respite in sight. Productivity, which is key to future prosperity, fell by



0.5 per cent in the first quarter compared with the previous quarter as GDP growth slowed to 0.3 per cent and hours worked rose rapidly.

It was the first fall since the final quarter of 2015.

"The combination of rising inflation and poor productivity paints a grim picture for living standards," Gerwyn Davies, labour market adviser at the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development, said.

Confirmation of the pay squeeze raised concerns about the sustainability of Britain's economic growth, which has in the past been dependent on consumer spending.

"As well as hitting UK workers in their pockets, this fall in real regular pay also potentially puts at risk an economic recovery that has been reliant on strong consumer spending," Mr Davies said. His institute recently said that employers planned to restrict staff pay settlements to 1 per cent this year. The bank is expecting the economy to grow by 1.9 per cent this year, better than the 1.8 per cent recorded last year.

The Bank's monthly agents' report, released at the same time as the ONS data, said that "consumer spending growth had moderated in real terms, as spending power had been hit by higher prices".

Yet it also noted that "recruitment conditions had tightened a little further, with skills shortages reported in a wider range of activities".

Leading article, page 29



Thin White Duke A public statue of David Bowie, believed to be the world's first, is taking shape in Andrew Sinclair's studio in Devon. It is destined for Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, where Bowie played a gig in 1971 to see if he could cut it live

Judge stuck in lift is late for killing verdict

A man accused over a killing had to wait 45 minutes for a verdict to be delivered when the judge got stuck in a lift on the day he attended a formal ceremony to mark his departure from the Old Bailey. Judge Anthony Morris, QC, was presiding over the trial of Ridwaan Shaikh, 22, who was accused of killing Bradley Cresswell, 21, of South Oxhey, Hertfordshire, after a drunken night out in Watford. Court staff said first that the judge had been unavoidably detained, then that he was "stuck in the lift". Shaikh, of Ilford, east London, was cleared of murder but found guilty of manslaughter. He will be sentenced today.

Dementia crisis looms

Deaths from dementia in England and Wales are expected to rise to 219,409 in 2040, up from 59,199 in 2014, according to researchers at King's College London. They warned of an "urgent need to act now to transform health, social and palliative care services" to meet the higher demand projected. The study, published in the journal *BMC Medicine*, also predicts that cancer deaths will rise from 143,638 to 208,636.

Branson financial scam

Sir Richard Branson has warned that criminals are using his name to dupe people into buying fake investments. The billionaire said that the scams were "terrifyingly deceptive" and victims believed he was involved in investments that they had discovered were worthless or non-existent. Binary options fraudsters have used the names of reputable businessmen to give credibility to suspect deals, offering improbably high returns.

Rugby injuries cut

An hour of strength training a week can reduce the risk of rugby injuries by three quarters, a study by the Rugby Football Union and the University of Bath has found. A regimen of lunges, "bear crawls" and one-armed press-ups will be introduced at schools and youth clubs after a year-long trial in which the rate of concussions was cut by 59 per cent. The injuries may stem from poor agility and muscle control.

Water-ride death

A post-mortem examination has revealed that Evha Jannath, 11, who died after falling from the Splash Canyon ride at Drayton Manor theme park in Staffordshire last week, suffered fatal chest injuries. An inquest into the death of Evha, from Leicester, has been opened and adjourned. Her parents plan to watch CCTV footage of her final moments to understand how she came to fall into the water.

T rex's fearsome bite

Tyrannosaurus rex bit down on its prey with a force of about 8,000lb, almost twice the power of a crocodile's jaws. It used the pressure to crack open the bones of its prey to get at the nutritious mineral salts and marrow within, which were not available to smaller, less well-equipped rivals, according to Paul Gignac, a palaeontologist at Oklahoma State University, whose research is published in *Scientific Reports*.

Scientists find secret of brewing artificial blood

Oliver Moody Science Correspondent

Patients could be given blood transfusions and bone marrow grafts cultivated from their own cells after scientists cracked the early stages of this difficult process.

Two teams of biologists have found a way to make the common ancestors of blood cells. The development may lead to doctors being able to brew batches of artificial blood.

Their research, published in the journal *Nature*, also raises the possibility that leukaemia patients could receive safe bone marrow transplants grown from cells in the lining of their own blood vessels.

The breakthrough revolves around a kind of self-renewing master cell that

can give rise to all the basic components of the bloodstream, as well as the ground troops of the immune system.

In theory, only one haematopoietic stem cell (HSC) could be used to regenerate a person's entire blood system.

Scientists have been trying for two decades to manufacture these cells from more basic types of stem cell. A group led by George Daley, dean of Harvard University's faculty of medicine, appears finally to have overcome this considerable technical challenge.

The researchers used an array of chemical signals to turn human cells into pluripotent stem cells, which can form almost any kind of tissue in the body. These were then coaxed into

becoming a mixture that included HSCs by inserting compounds known as transcription factors, which alter the work of genes but leave underlying DNA untouched.

When this soup of cells was injected into mice, it produced almost the complete set of human blood cells, which turned out to be capable of a human immune response after the mice were vaccinated.

Ryohichi Sugimura, one of Professor Daley's colleagues and lead author of the paper, said: "This step opens up an opportunity to take cells from patients with genetic blood disorders, use gene editing to correct their genetic defect and make functional blood cells."

"This also gives us the potential to have a limitless supply of blood stem

cells and blood by taking cells from universal donors. This could potentially augment the bloody supply for patients who need transfusions."

Bertie Göttgens and Carolina Guibentif, of the University of Cambridge, who were not involved in the research, said in an accompanying article that the method held enormous promise for a range of new types of medicine.

They noted, however, that there were important unanswered questions, including whether the blood stem cells could become cancerous. While one team found no evidence of this happening in their cell cultures, scientists will want longer-term evidence that the method is safe to use in animals and humans.

Muslim activist charged under terror laws

Dominic Kennedy Investigations Editor

The international director of the Muslim advocacy group Cage has been charged under terrorism laws after he refused to disclose his computer and phone passwords when flying into Britain.

Muhammad Rabbani, 36, said that he had been returning from the Middle East where he had taken evidence from a torture victim and declined to give British authorities access to his laptop and phone. He could face a three-month jail sentence for obstructing border staff in their counterterror searches.

Cage captured attention when another of its directors described Mohammed Emwazi, the Isis murderer also known as Jihadi John, as a "beautiful young man".

The group has launched a campaign

with the hashtag #FlyDontSpy to challenge the state's ability to demand passwords from passengers. They say that it violated the right to privacy.

Mr Rabbani was detained at Heathrow in November but released. Yesterday he went to Bethnal Green police station in east London to be charged. Outside he was greeted by a crowd of men who shook his hand. He was carrying a copy of *Renegade*, the biography of Darcus Howe, the late civil liberties campaigner, and was given flowers and chocolates.

The charge said that "he did wilfully obstruct, or sought to frustrate, an examination or search under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000, contrary to paragraph 18(1)(c) of

that schedule". He said that he would be challenging the charge and is due to appear at Westminster magistrates' court on June 20.

Cage, previously Cageprisoners, was created in 2003 to raise awareness of the plight of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and other detainees held as part of the war on terror. Cage said that Mr Rabbani had been unable to hand over the passwords as he was carrying evidence taken from a torture survivor and did not have permission to share the information. It said that he had "taken a principled stance to protect

the right to privacy in a case of torture that implicates high-ranking officials".

Cage quoted Mr Rabbani, saying: "This should be a moment of pride and celebration for Muslims. There are some members of our community that are not just going to complain."

Moazzam Begg, outreach director of Cage and a former Guantanamo Bay detainee, said: "We continue to support him in his efforts to protect the privacy of us all, and to free Muslims from the constant harassment of Schedule 7 at airports."

Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act has been criticised by the civil liberties campaign group Liberty, which said that it was "a breathtakingly broad and intrusive power to stop, search and hold individuals".

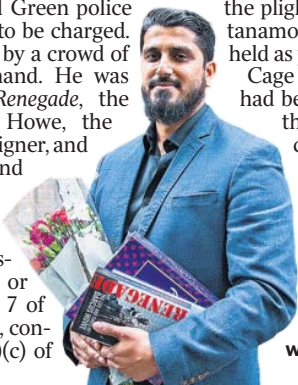
Lord Carlile of Berriew, QC, a former independent reviewer of terrorism, said

that it was important for counterterrorism police at airports to be able to access computers. However, travellers may point out to border staff that digital files are legally privileged.

Under police counterterrorism powers, travellers can be required to provide passwords and login information for mobile phones and laptops when they enter or leave the country.

Azad Ali, a director of Muslim Engagement and Development (Mend), said on Facebook: "Whatever happens, I stand with Muhammad Rabbani. May Allah make it easy for him."

Mend has issued a Muslim manifesto for the general election, demanding that parties "commit to curbing the encroachment of counterterrorism policies on civil liberties by reviewing all counterterrorism legislation enacted since 2000".



Muhammad Rabbani
was met by wellwishers



Nest in peace An electric fence keeps out foxes and wildlife volunteers scare gulls and kestrels away from the 33 pairs of little terns nesting on Chesil Beach, Dorset

Nestlé tastes defeat again in KitKat battle

Andrew Ellison

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The maker of KitKat has failed in its attempt to trademark the shape of the chocolate bar in the UK.

Nestlé lost a ruling at the Court of Appeal yesterday in a long-running legal battle with its rival Cadbury. The two food giants have been wrangling over trademarks for a decade, with Nestlé successfully blocking Cadbury's attempt to trademark the purple used on Dairy Milk bars.

Experts said the decision meant that rival manufacturers could start making and selling products that looked similar to KitKat with less risk of litigation.

Nestlé said that it was disappointed by the judgment and considering its next step. "KitKat is much loved around the world and its four-finger shape is well known by consumers. [This] has been granted trademark registration in many countries," a spokesman said.

Tania Clark, a partner and trademark lawyer at Withers & Rogers, said the decision was a blow for the company but that it might not be the end of its efforts to secure trademark protection. "This case highlights the difficulties that often accompany attempts to obtain commercial protection for the shape of a product. Nestlé feels strongly about the matter and, depending on whether there are sufficient legal grounds, they could apply for leave to file an appeal to the Supreme Court."

Two national treasures make this an abundance of riches

Theatre Ann Treneman

Lettice and Lovage
Menier Chocolate
Factory, SE1

★★★★☆



At the heart of this funny peculiar play, written by Peter Shaffer, is the portrait of an eccentric who is, quite simply, England on a stick.

"Enlarge! Enliven! Enliven!" cries Lettice Douffet, played by Felicity Kendal with an almost wild zeal. She is a woman for whom the words "drama queen" seem woefully

inadequate and Kendal, in a short orange wig and a long black Lady Macbeth cloak, is larger than life as we know it.

We meet Lettice as she guides tourists around Fustian House in Wiltshire, the dulllest stately home in England, so tedious that she can't stop livening up her talks with a few embellishments, not to say fabrications (ie lies). The result is that she is fired by her boss, a dragon named Lotte Schoen, played by Maureen Lipman with a brittleness that is also deeply English (and very Barbara Pym).

For Lettice, the worst thing you could ever be is "mere". To be a mere woman, a mere tour guide, a mere

anything, is worse than death. She loves history and is very taken with the idea of acting out various famous beheadings.

Lotte, who seems nothing if not mere, gets drawn in to this world. In one of the best scenes, as they drink a strange brew of vodka and lovage out of golden goblets, they suddenly find they are soulmates.

Trevor Nunn

Maureen Lipman,
as Lotte, plays an
excellent drunk



directs this female buddy play from 1987 that Shaffer wrote for Maggie Smith as Lettice (no pressure then). Kendal rises to the challenge, her voice growling, then purring, as she prowls the stage. Lipman is much more reserved but, at times, very

funny; she does an excellent drunk. The set, by Robert Jones, of Lettice's apartment in Earl's Court is wonderfully detailed and feels thoroughly comfortable from the start.

This play is three

acts, with one short interval (more pause than anything else) and one real one, and comes in at two hours and 40 minutes. That is a long time for a play with such an interior plot and the pace does, at times, drag. The relationship between the two women is intriguing but it did feel too slight at times.

It is the performances that lift this up, saving it from the dreaded mere "mereness".

Kendal is a wonder and Lipman not far behind. I had wondered if any stage was going to be big enough to accommodate two national treasures but that turns out to be a plus, not a minus.

Box office 0207 378 1713, until July 8.

Passenger pain as rail union plans 32nd strike

Kaya Burgess

Southern Rail passengers face a return of the chaos that has plagued their services for a year after a union voted on an overtime ban for train drivers that could paralyse the network.

Much of the strike action affecting Southern during the past year has been brought by the RMT union, which is now planning to stage the 32nd walkout of the dispute on May 30.

Aslef, has now said that from June 4 its drivers would no longer work the overtime shifts that Southern relies on to run a full timetable, a decision that is likely to cause widespread delays and cancellations.

Aslef has been in talks with Southern over the issue of driver-only trains with no guards, on which the doors are operated by drivers, and has presented

two deals to its members, both of which were rejected.

The call for an overtime ban has shocked Southern's operator, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), which condemned the move yesterday.

Mick Whelan, general secretary of Aslef, said that talks with Southern had broken down, explaining: "The company has refused to move its position so we have, reluctantly, informed them that our members will refuse to work overtime from the end of this month."

The unions say it would be unsafe to remove guards from trains and pass responsibility for operating doors to drivers. Southern denies the claim.

Aslef instituted a two-month ban on driver overtime in December, which had a serious effect on Southern services, leading to branch line closures and train cancellations. It was

suspended in January. Six 24-hour strikes by Aslef members also brought the network to a virtual standstill.

Mick Cash, general secretary of the RMT, said: "This is an important and significant development and RMT would call on GTR to join with both unions in tripartite talks aimed at negotiating a settlement to this dispute."

Nick Brown, chief operating officer of GTR, said: "After over five months of intense negotiations and two peace deals agreed and recommended by the Aslef executive, we are dismayed the union leadership is taking this action, which is designed to impact as many of our passengers as possible."

"We're safely running over 80,000 trains a month with drivers controlling the doors across our network — we're sorry that passengers will suffer as a result of this unnecessary action."

Buy-to-let tycoon faces court for curry ban

One of the UK's most prolific buy-to-let landlords, who tried to ban Indians and Pakistanis from renting his properties because of the smell of curry they were said to generate, is facing legal action.

The equality watchdog has applied for an injunction at Central London county court against Fergus Wilson over his tenant policy. In his latest crite-

ria, seen by the Press Association, he bans workers on zero-hour contracts, single parents, "battered wives" and those with children under 18.

Last month the Equality and Human Rights Commission demanded a written assurance from Mr Wilson that he would not refuse to let a property based on race, colour or nationality. Mr Wil-

son, who owns hundreds of properties in Kent, claimed that he wanted to ban Asian tenants because he could not sell properties that smelled of curry.

Of his other criteria for tenants, he said in his defence: "I am merely taking economic steps to ensure that we do not end up with people who are unable to pay their rent."



Jet set Riders pulled off flips, barrel rolls, spins and other audacious tricks in the





JOHN BAKER/COVER IMAGES

world jet-ski freeride championships at Fistral Beach near Newquay, Cornwall. The USA's Mark Gomez emerged victorious

Vlogging and DIY the new badges of honour for Guides

Greg Hurst Social Affairs Editor

For more than 100 years girls have undertaken useful, craft-orientated and occasionally adventurous activities for the honour of a badge to sew on to the sleeve or sash of their uniform (which they should, of course, sew on themselves).

However, the Girlguiding movement is bracing itself for the biggest change to its badges in its history. Some will be ditched to make way for activities to appeal to a more diverse generation. In short, guiding is being rebadged.

New badges for vlogging, app design, entrepreneurship, DIY, archaeology and upcycling have been put forward by the 15,000 girls consulted so far. Now all Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, parents, ex-Guides and others can put forward their own suggestions. Giving girls a voice has been a key theme in the evolution of Girlguiding.

Recent additions include badges for chocolate, confectioner, party planner and circus skills. To achieve these, girls must complete tasks such as setting up a tasting session of chocolate bars, drinks, mousses or biscuits; making a selection of sweets; throwing a party; and juggling or riding a unicycle.

This shake-up will be more radical, aligning the badges for each age group

and dividing them into six themes: skills, adventures, health, taking action, self-expression and self-knowledge.

Other badges under consideration include attending festivals, speaking out, animation, investigations, voting, growing your own vegetables, costume design, self-care and space.

At present there are 41 badges for Guides and 57 for Brownies. Their evolution provides a snapshot of the ambitions and societal expectations of girls and young women. In 1912 there was a badge for air mechanic skills. A decade later this was joined by badges for architecture and electrical engineering, and in the 1930s by electricians' skills. A public speaking badge was introduced in the 1960s, another for radio communicators in the 1980s and one for canoeists in the 1990s.

The Girlguiding movement said that its review was prompted by feedback from girls who said that they wanted activities to prepare them to be leaders in the modern world and undertake challenges that stretched them.

Beth Tweddle, the former Olympic gymnast who is helping to publicise the consultation, has suggested a badge for resilience as the skill had "helped me in different situations, from handling the pressures of competing to dealing with the demands of daily life".

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SATHNAM SANGHERA

Invasive pests hitch a lift to ravage crops worldwide

Ben Webster Environment Editor

Chinese slate tiles may be cheap and look great on the kitchen floor but they can come with a hidden menace. Invasive pests are spreading around the world and the growth in trade and weak border controls are largely to blame, according to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Many of the pests are hitching a ride on untreated wooden pallets. They include the Asian longhorn beetle, which attacks broadleaved trees and is believed to have arrived in 2012 in a consignment of Chinese slate.

In its annual *State of the World's Plants* Kew said that pests could cost the world's farmers more than £400 billion a year if left unchecked.

Ash trees in Britain are facing a new pest, emerald ash borer, a beetle spreading westwards from Russia, the report said. It was originally found in China, Japan and Korea and has already killed more than 60 million trees in the US, where it arrived in 2002, probably in wooden pallets.

Many ash trees in the UK have been weakened by ash dieback and would be killed by the beetle's larvae, which feed on nutrients under the bark.

Kew said that the removal of trade barriers has increased the risk of pest invasions. "Reduced control of movement of plants within the European Union single market has contributed to

On the march

£400bn
potential annual cost
to world agriculture

Fall armyworm

Attacks maize in Africa



Cotton bollworm
Major pest throughout most
of the world. Recently
arrived in the Americas



Brown marmorated stink bug
In US and Europe.
Affecting a wide
range of crops



Asian longhorn beetle
In UK



Emerald ash borer
From East Asia.
Now around
Moscow and
heading towards
Europe



Source: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

recent increases in the rate of spread of insect pests," said the report, which contains contributions from 128 scientists from 12 countries.

The world's fastest spreading pest is the fall armyworm, a native of the Americas which arrived in Africa last year and has spread to 20 countries, destroying maize, rice and sugar cane. Tomato farms in Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda are suffering losses caused by another pest, the tomato leaf miner.

Many are becoming resistant to insecticides and it is becoming too expensive to gain approval for new active in-

gredients — the average cost of developing one is £220 million. The diamondback moth, which damaged cabbage crops last year, is resistant to 95 pesticides, the report said.

Kathy Willis, director of science at Kew, said that some of the 1,700 species of plants discovered in the past year could be used to build resistance to pests and diseases in key crops. New species include five types of manihot, wild relatives of cassava, the third-most important food crop in the tropics; seven species of aspalathus, used in redbush tea; and a parsnip in Turkey.


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The painting that made my husband do a double-take

Janice Turner

Page 26



Fighting for rights is what makes us human

By signing up to Kissinger's doctrine of realpolitik Trump is ignoring the moral and practical case for intervention

David Aaronovitch



@DAARONOVITCH

These are the most beautiful small islands on Earth," the article began. "They are safe; there are no hawkers selling sarongs and, unless you seek them out, no distractions. Strange to think," it gushed, "that the idyllic Maldives have only been a holiday destination for 40 years or so." And stranger still to think that you can be killed there for speaking your mind.

I had somehow missed the death bit. But the free speech advocacy group Index on Censorship (of which I'm chairman) gave an award recently to a website called Maldives Independent. Zameena Rasheed, its editor, said that people associated with the site and critical of the government or of the Islamists with whom it has a symbiotic relationship could expect visits, threats and, in one case, had disappeared altogether.

"Oh God!" I can almost hear you thinking. "Not the bloody Maldives as well. Am I supposed to care about everywhere? I mean how many people are there in the Maldives to be persecuted in any case?" (Answer: about 400,000.)

And I get it. Rights fatigue. I feel it too and could have done without knowing about how freedom of speech was being trampled over in a place known only to me through the travel pages. Where can you go that isn't tainted? What are you supposed to do? And would it even do any

good in the long run? Where has all this human rights stuff got us?

President Trump thinks it hasn't got us very far. Under Barack Obama, the US national security council had a post of "special assistant to the president for multilateral affairs and human rights". Under Bill Clinton it was the "special assistant for multilateral and humanitarian affairs" and, just in case you think this was a Democrat obsession, under George W Bush it was the "special assistant for democracy, human rights, and international operations".

Under President Trump the post has been renamed "special assistant for international organisations and alliances". No more promotion of human rights in far-off places. The State Department produces a report on human rights which is presented every year by the secretary of state. This year Rex Tillerson passed up on the occasion. When he visited Moscow Mr Tillerson opted, unlike

A laissez-faire attitude was not the approach of Ronnie and Mrs T

his predecessors, not to meet Russian opposition activists.

Last week Mr Trump invited Henry Kissinger, the apostle of realpolitik, to the Oval Office for some advice before his first foreign trip as president. Not for Dr Kissinger the abstractions of doctrinal objectives in foreign policy.

For the school of realpolitik, policy is dictated by national interests, strategic and economic. You sell to the Chinese, you try to contain their military expansion in so far as it might threaten you, but don't waste your time on encouraging their

dissidents or lecturing Beijing about democracy.

The Saudis might repel you with their suppression of women's rights and their fundamentalist religiosity. But they buy lots of our kit and they are a bulwark against Iran, so you cut out the irritating rights talk and just hope that, over time, they reform. And if they don't, they don't.

Same with Mr Putin, Mr Erdogan and the interesting Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines, with his radically extrajudicial way of dealing with people who may (or may not) be drug dealers.

The astute foreign policy in this age of disillusion is to buy and sell, make strategic alliances with whoever is up for it and let the chips fall where they may. And thus an end to the line of interference that runs from raising questions, through to boycotts, then sanctions, then cruise missiles and ultimately to expensive state-building. The road to hell is paved with good interventions.

In case you think this world view is alien to the British sense of fair play, recall how often it was cited during the Northern Ireland Troubles. The Troops Out Movement had its Republican and pro-IRA supporters, but drew its greatest strength from many on the mainland who said: "Let the Irish fight it out between themselves."

However, just so conservative backers of Trump are clear, this laissez-faire attitude was not the approach of their heroes Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher. Their antagonism to communism was about much more than the military threat it posed to the West. It was also genuinely doctrinal and based on the belief that the fate of citizens in communist countries — imprisonment (or worse) without



The Maldives is idyllic for tourists but dangerous for locals who speak out

trial, no free speech, no chance of standing in anything approaching a fair election — was evil in itself. The way that the Soviet Union treated its people was inextricably linked to the philosophy that underpinned it, a point both leaders made repeatedly and loudly in their dealings with the Kremlin.

Right though they were about that, even Ronnie and Mrs T made the terrible mistake of believing that our enemy's enemy is our friend. The West backed Saddam Hussein in the 1980s because he was fighting the Iranians. It emboldened him and helped lead to two internal genocides and two major wars. Likewise, the argument today that because Putin and Assad are opposed to Isis we should go into partnership with them is a

miscalculation that leaves ordinary Syrians with only the jihadists to look to.

The adage that no two democracies have ever gone to war with each other is sufficiently true to make one reflect on the benefits of human rights, liberty and the rule of law when they are spread around the world. The question is not whether you should try to spread it, but how effectively you can do it.

And that's before you even make a moral case. Let's suppose that it's you and me who find ourselves harassed, forced out of jobs, imprisoned or

If we were harassed or worse, how would we want others to react?

worse, simply because we want basic freedoms. How would we want others, in more fortunate parts of the globe, to treat us?

Actually I know the answer. Zameena Rasheed gave it when she accepted her award. The day she learnt she'd been nominated was "one of my worst days as editor of the Maldives Independent", she said. Morale was low. "All of us had been arrested and some of us had received death threats. A member of our team had been abducted and disappeared. The odds suddenly felt too great to overcome. [But] this is a lifeline... we no longer feel so alone."

It was just an award, such a small thing. So easily done. And what is true for Zameena is true for hundreds of imprisoned or harassed dissidents, human rights activists and journalists in Turkey, Russia, China and elsewhere. Just knowing someone out there is talking about you, upholding standards you aspire to, can keep you in the fight.

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Comment

How the elite keep interlopers locked out

A seminal book republished after 50 years still has much to say on the thwarting of social mobility

Jenni Russell



@JENNIRSL

Fifty years ago a young Jewish-American intellectual published a book that wrecked his glittering career and his friendships overnight. Norman Podhoretz's *Making It* was a memoir of "one of the longest journeys in the world" — from the slums and gangs of Brooklyn to the pinnacle of New York's literary and cultural life.

Podhoretz intended it to do more than tell his story; by being frank about his ambitions and how he had achieved them, he wanted to lift the lid on what he called the "dirty little secret" of America's intellectuals and liberal arts graduates: that they were as consumed as everyone else by a desire for success but were ashamed to admit it. Podhoretz wanted to do for ambition what DH Lawrence had done for sex, liberating it for discussion. By writing his book he was, he admitted, making "a frank, Mailer-like bid for literary distinction, fame and money, all in one package".

It was a terrible miscalculation. Podhoretz was then the editor of *Commentary*, an influential left-wing monthly magazine, at a time when intellectuals bestrode New York life. He had the capacity to make or break literary reputations. He was

friends with Norman Mailer and Susan Sontag; he went to the most exclusive New Year's Eve parties; he was courted by publishers, rich men and beautiful women. When President Johnson took office after Kennedy's assassination, Podhoretz was one of six thinkers asked to write a letter to him giving advice.

Podhoretz was capable of being euphoric about his good fortune, but he had written his book to reveal his gradual realisation of how perilous, damaging and difficult it had been to cross from one world to another. He had not only to abandon the family, friends and immigrant Jewish culture in which he had grown up, he also implicitly had to accept that those values were worth less than those of the class he aspired to. And as he absorbed the rules of that class, by way of scholarships to Columbia, Cambridge and Harvard, turning

Upper-class disdain for ambitiousness served as a weapon

from a gangster in a red satin bomber jacket to a "young gentleman" who had tea and fires made for him by a college servant, he had become aware of the terrible psychological and practical trap it created for outsiders.

The social code imbibed at Columbia "forbade one to work too hard or make any effort to impress a professor or to display the slightest concern over grades". It was an even greater transgression to be a social climber, to aspire to know people

who were not already of one's circle. These implicit rules caused Podhoretz intense private anguish, since it was only by breaking all those rules that he had any hope of reaching the new life he longed for. Over the next decade he felt continually guilty, anxious and confused about his success, a message reinforced by his less successful friends, since a gentleman should certainly not aspire to power or money and only possibly — if he were an artist or poet, say — to fame.

But this upper-class disdain for ambitiousness, Podhoretz finally saw, served as a weapon to defend those who already had wealth and social position against those who sought it. It also disguised the reality of the ferocious fight for power and eminence he had been involved with in his literary world — the daily stock market he had observed in New York's social reputations, the agony of his disappointed friends holding jobs they despised, the delight he and everyone else experienced when they were invited to a White House dinner or a private island or literary salon.

Podhoretz expected his clear-sighted, self-mocking and at times merciless exposure of his world's motivations and vulnerabilities to be admired. His agent and publisher refused to touch it but Podhoretz went ahead, to be greeted by a howl of denunciation. His circles were horrified by his revelations of their weaknesses as well as his own. Mailer joined the reviewers denouncing him, the invitations to parties and to write evaporated overnight, his social group deserted

him and he became an outcast. It almost broke him. For the next two years he retreated, drinking heavily, seeing almost no one, rethinking his entire belief system, and finally re-emerging as a rather embittered neoconservative. The world was not, after all, ready to admit his truths.

Is it now? Fifty years on, *Making It* is being reissued by the *New York Review of Books* and what's fascinating is how sneering some of the coverage of it still is. His critics appear desperate to distance themselves from Podhoretz's desires for recognition, accomplishment and praise, as if these drivers of achievement were shameful or unusual rather than commonplace.

The *New Republic* says his book has the "uniquely revelatory properties of true vulgarity" and defines him as the Donald Trump of American literature. The *London Review of Books* mocks him as "nimble adaptable to any suck-up opportunity for advancement"; now aged 87, he is an "old fart" who used to be a big shot. *The Tablet*, while somewhat kinder, says that something about the book is "fundamentally off" and calls it Podhoretz's Valentine to himself.

Making It is being seen through a lens far crueller than it deserves. Our era welcomes self-revelation, with writings like Karl Ove Knausgaard's *My Struggle* worldwide bestsellers. Podhoretz's account is occasionally crass but also self-knowing. His insights into the hazards of social mobility could not be more relevant in our fast-changing world where so many people are switching country or class. It deserves a new readership and a new reputation.



Labour has let the Tories off the hook on rising crime

David Blunkett

It wasn't only the Tory minister Brandon Lewis who got a rough ride at this week's Police Federation conference but also the increasingly hapless Diane Abbott, who purports to represent the Labour Party. This is deeply regrettable because crime, budget cuts and 20,000 fewer uniformed officers should be fertile ground for a Labour attack on what used to be Conservative territory.

With my party having botched its announcement of an extra 10,000 police officers over the lifetime of the next parliament, the debate about the safety of those most affected by crime is notable by its absence from the election campaign.

The Conservatives cannot believe their luck. Given that it was a Tory-led government from 2010 that slashed police budgets by about 30 per cent and oversaw a catastrophic drop not just in police numbers but in a whole range of critical support staff, it's not surprising they're reluctant to debate the issue — especially at a time when violent crime and the use of knives are on the increase. There have also been drastic cuts in services that relieve pressure on the police, such as mental health units and homelessness programmes.

As home secretary I took pride in reversing the previous fall in police numbers and recruited an additional 15,000 officers, together with 6,000 community support staff, as well as expanding forensic capability and beginning to tackle cybercrime.

Those increases have now not only been reversed but cut further. Had it not been for a campaign in which the Labour Party, and particularly Andy Burnham, the former shadow home secretary, played a part, further cuts since 2015 would have taken place.

It is little known that the Home Office has been undertaking a review of the distribution of police funding. As with changes to education budgets, the pot of money will be spread more widely across the country, creating losers as well as winners. It appears that while some areas outside the big cities will get more, large urban centres will get less. They are the ones facing the sharpest increase in crimes linked to community disintegration and tensions that lead to conflict and violence.

I have never believed that poverty equals criminality. But it is undeniable that if you undermine measures to enhance renewal you will accelerate the disintegration of the fabric of civil society which is central to avoiding the breakdown of normal forms of acceptable behaviour, the resolution of disputes and capacity of communities to cope under enormous stress.

Like Tony Blair, I have always believed that fighting crime is a Labour issue. The question on June 8 is, do the electorate?

Lord Blunkett was Labour home secretary 2001-2004

Janice Turner Notebook

The position you play in says so much about you

A friend is encouraging me to join a netball team. It's a casual muck-about for ladies of a certain age who haven't played since school. The idea is appealing: it's the only team game I've ever enjoyed.

But what position would I play? I was always goal defence, a journeyman role thrust upon every large, plain, swotty girl. Almost as bad as goal keeper, who was all of the above but taller. The sexy girls, who acquired breasts and boyfriends first, were inevitably goal attack. Their mean-girl best mates usually played goal shooter. The wing positions were the quiet mousey types.

While I was discussing this with two fellow resentful ex-GDs, another friend joined in. Bet you played centre, we said. "Yes, how did you guess?" Because you're absolutely gorgeous, no doubt the

most popular girl in school. You are so a centre.

The silent minority

Strange days on the election trail. Out in south Wales this week I found it impossible to meet or even speak to a single Conservative candidate. Or even someone running a local campaign. Arrangements were cancelled, calls not returned or diverted. Very odd.

Fed up with being fobbed off, I turned up unannounced at the Tory HQ in Cardiff, a grim unit on an industrial estate. A pair of young men sat opposite two identical posters saying "Strong and stable government". They appeared terrified even to make small talk.

One pretended (I think) to ring the candidate I'd been chasing. He was his election agent so could I instead speak to him? "I'd love to, but I've just signed a confidentiality agreement..." he waved the piece of paper at me, "forbidding me to talk to the press." Election agents with gagging clauses? This is a new level of control-freakery.

You might think: fair enough, why waste time on

nosey journalists? But in a snap election many candidates are not just untested but unknown, often imposed by the national party. They shouldn't contrive to be elected without scrutiny.

Alone in a crowd

At the Royal Academy exhibition *America after the Fall*, my husband paused by the 1939 Edward Hopper painting *New York Movie*, depicting a lone woman leaning against a wall in a cinema. "I just did a double take: I thought she was on her mobile phone!" Which today she would have been: sneaking out to take a call, ignoring her companions, forsaking the film for the promise of something more exciting. Although more likely she'd be texting, not speaking. Or scrolling through her Twitter feed.

After viewing Hopper's works, it is impossible not to see America through his eyes: a land of individuals, alone even in a crowd. The new — and brilliant — film *Miss Sloane*

shows the dazzling, scarlet-lipped amoral lobbyist (played by Jessica Chastain) eating noodles in a Chinese diner or glad-handing at a party, yet always singular and apart: a Hopper figure made flesh.

What would the artist, who died in 1967, have made of us all jabbing away at our devices? Are we now more alone or less?

A Rotten disease

In David Baddiel's one-man show *My Family — Not the Sitcom* he discusses his father Colin's decline into a form of frontotemporal dementia called Pick's disease, characterised by vulgarity and disinhibition.

Even when weak and vulnerable, en route to the operating theatre for surgery, Colin flicks a V-sign at every kindly medic. When a woman offers condolences on his wife's death he remarks that he'd love to rape her.

"Punk dementia", Baddiel calls it. Such a brilliant coinage. There is much of Johnny Rotten in Colin: swearing, getting banned from his daycare centre, iconoclastic, infuriating. "Don't know what I want," sings Rotten in *Anarchy in the UK*. "But I know how to get it. I want to destroy the passerby." And this dementia is anarchy of the mind.

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Time for Blair and co to stop fighting Brexit

This election has shown that the public is way ahead of politicians on how the Remain cause is a relic of the past

Iain Martin



@IAINMARTINI

For an election campaign that was supposed to be boring, this one is full of interesting developments. I accept that day-to-day electioneering can seem about as exciting as an evening at Tim Farron's house listening to a Paddy Ashdown monologue.

Look beyond the repetitive "strong and stable" boredom factor, though, and it is possible to see this as a landmark election. The electoral plates shifted some time ago, after June 23 last year, and the parties are being forced by this contest to catch up with public opinion. This is healthy democracy at its best.

Quickest to realise in the aftermath what the EU referendum meant was Theresa May, a Remain backer who nevertheless repositioned herself audaciously as the person to deliver "best Brexit". Her deeply troubling shift to the collectivist left on economic policy, however, is stoking future Tory

conflict. "I am looking forward to seeing what's in the Conservative Party communist manifesto," says one senior Tory, only half-joking, who predicts plenty of punch-ups after June 8 even if Mrs May wins by a landslide.

Meanwhile, the expected Liberal Democrat revival, on the back of a surge in support for staying in Europe, has failed to materialise. The ultra-Remain campaigners — led by wealthy political day-trippers such as Gina Miller — are, amusingly, getting nowhere. The SNP is going backwards in Scotland. And the Labour Party, while rebranding itself as a death cult in the domestic and

Political day-trippers such as Gina Miller are getting nowhere

foreign policy fields, has abandoned efforts to fight Brexit.

A single thread runs through all these developments. It explains the state of the polls. It explains the campaign's strange atmosphere. And it explains what is about to happen.

This thread is the widespread acceptance in the country of Brexit. That, for all the screaming and shouting of the political and media

class on both sides of the argument, is the new reality.

Indeed, a poll this week suggested that only a quarter of voters want to fight on and reverse Brexit. Add together the determined Leavers and former Remainers who now want to get on with it and 60 to 75 per cent of the electorate are for Brexit. Forget 52-48, and the trope of Britain split down the middle for ever. The country has moved on.

This shift seems to have happened before most politicians and journalists (me included) noticed, and it is testament to the good sense of voters. They paid little attention to the frenetic warring over the "triggering" of Article 50. How irrelevant, quixotic and distant that episode seems now, even though it took place only a few months ago.

This new reality has momentous implications for the future of British politics across the ideological spectrum.

The working assumption on the centre-left, or the ultra-Remain portion of it, has been that the emergence of a new opposition to the Tories will be rooted in resisting Brexit or getting back into the EU one step at a time.

However, for such an opposition to stand any chance of connecting with enough voters to win, it will have to accept the new reality. If at least

25 million Britons accept Brexit, and eight million are dedicated to reversing it, there is scope for a smallish pro-EU third party (the Lib Dems, say) but not for a force that can command a majority in the Commons.

This will only become more apparent with every passing year. By the time of the next election Brexit will have happened. That means that any Remainer party bidding in 2022

A Remainer party would just look daft at the next election

to become the government, and campaigning to set the clock back to early 2016, will just look daft to practically-minded voters.

Think how unappealing an offer it would be in five years' time: Vote anti-Tory to beg Brussels to be allowed to rejoin the European Union and even to join the single currency. That is Tony Blair, Richard Branson, fantasy island stuff. Think of the national shame and humiliation involved.

Of course, it is always possible that during a future economic crisis the British, in their tens of millions, might plead for EU membership again. But history, and the tradition

of British bloody-mindedness and unwillingness to admit weakness, suggests it's unlikely that they will change their minds.

I say this as a Brexiteer not to provoke my grieving ultra-Remainer friends, but simply to point out helpfully that they can waste their time for the next ten years or so if they want but the chances of success are tiny.

Such energy would be better directed towards national renewal. There is masses to do. The Tories, considering what looks likely to emerge from their manifesto, seem particularly ill-equipped in policy terms. None of the parties yet seem ready to take advantage of the opportunity (as well as deal with difficulties) that flows from Brexit.

After the tough negotiations with our soon-to-be former partners, it provides scope to rethink our state and our constitution in the next decade, along with agriculture and the countryside, universities, technology, financial services and regulation.

The early experiments in regional devolution in England need to be supercharged. The parties should be thinking about how Britain works, or doesn't, and how Brexit might be used to get competitive advantage and growth. Time to work out what comes next.

Letters to the Editor



Exodus of teachers

Sir, Science and maths skills will be essential in an increasingly technological world, where people will need to be prepared for a rapidly changing workplace. If we want to maintain our position as a leading scientific nation we need a long-term vision for education in which all students take science and maths, alongside other subjects, until they are 18 as part of a more broadly based system. That is why the report by the National Foundation for Educational Research (May 17) of science and maths teachers leaving the profession is so worrying. We do not have enough specialist teachers to deliver the tech-savvy workforce of the future as it is.

If we want to keep our teachers we need a supportive environment where external assessment and performance measures benefit both teachers and students. We need high-quality training and mentoring, especially in the early years of a teacher's career. We also need to provide regular subject-specific professional development opportunities throughout teachers' careers — and to value our teachers more. PROFESSOR TOM MCLEISH, FRs, chairman, education committee, Royal Society; PROFESSOR FRANK KELLY, FRs, chairman, advisory committee on mathematics education, Royal Society

Archive altercation

Sir, I do not doubt that William Shawcross and Sheila de Bellaigue are correct in stating (letter, May 13) that the royal archives contain nothing to link Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother with the Nazi leadership — but that there were contacts, direct or indirect, cannot be denied. There is, for instance, a short British Pathé clip accessible online showing Lord Halifax in Berlin in 1937. It contains various shots of Lord Halifax with the British ambassador, Sir Neville Henderson, touring the international hunting exhibition organised by Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring. It shows close-ups of two mounted animal heads with labels specifying that they were shot by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother). The voiceover comments that she was also a good shot. ROBERT S MERRILLEES
Mailly-le-Château, France

Corrections and clarifications

- We said that “Just one in 100 eligible men took up shared parental leave last year” (“Caring for the elderly shouldn’t be a girl’s job”, May 17). The correct figure is 1 per cent of all men.
- Bed & breakfast double rooms at the Cary Arms, Babbacombe, Devon cost from £245, not £500 as we stated (Travel, May 13).

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Tories edge towards death tax for social care

Sir, Rachel Sylvester (Comment, May 16) predicts the imposition of a “death tax” in the future to deal with what is a significant funding problem for any government. As a pre-baby boomer I will admit to a particular interest in the topic. Many of us set money aside as we approached retirement to cover care fees, adapting the home, help with gardening and decorating, etc, rather than spending to the hilt. It is inevitable that many of us will get no financial help so will have to self-fund care home fees (thus subsidising the state placements to boot).

Surely the legalised theft of 40 per cent in inheritance tax should not result in a death tax in addition? However, the recovery of social care debt from the estates of those not paying as they go along would seem to be entirely just. Any other debts are recoverable from estates in the normal way, so why not social care?

The Dilnot report’s proposal for a cap on care costs is welcome but imagine the administration costs and the difficult decisions over what is reasonable. How do you reimburse expenditure by friends and relatives in caring for people at home? As usual there is a need for a proper debate, but that seems unlikely to happen. PETER MATHISON
Shrewsbury

Sir, The suggestion by Rachel Sylvester that the Tories may increase taxes on inheritance is a good idea. Why should the young, especially those who have nothing to inherit, pay off the debts of past generations? What we should have is a radical think about how this tax is administered. In my view it would be far better to tax beneficiaries at their marginal rate of income tax on any monies left to them. This would be far easier to manage, as they could go on individual tax returns in the years they are received. Any money left in trusts should be distributed upon death, and monies gifted over a certain annual value before death should also be taxed. MARK ERRINGTON
Bolton

Sir, Further to Rachel Sylvester’s article, may I point out to her, and to the Conservative Party, that some of us have already made a huge effort and sacrifice to leave an inheritance. We are the same oldies who turn out at elections and (sometimes) vote Tory. I think an extra 1p on income tax, which the Liberal Democrats are suggesting be put towards the bill for social care, is a much fairer idea. PADDY CHALLENS
Sherborne, Glos

Sir, Rachel Sylvester makes the sweeping statement in her article that it “would be wrong to pile extra taxes on the young, who are already saddled with tuition fees and rising living costs, while their baby-boomer parents retire on lavish final salary pension schemes.”

As strange as it may seem, we parasitic pensioners also have to deal with the same rising living costs. Furthermore, not every young person has the burden of tuition fees; and thousands of ordinary people who have retired on basic pensions (or worse) had their pensions stolen from them by their employers.

Ms Sylvester’s article has the effect of fuelling the fad of blaming the baby-boomer generation for anything and everything that is wrong with today’s society. CHRISTINA GROVE
Bedwley, Worcestershire

Sir, Rachel Sylvester is heading in the right direction with her suggestion that old-age care could be funded by a tax on assets rather than income. It is a laudable plan, provided that it includes those who presently avoid all inheritance tax by way of family trusts. W M SHEARD
Thornton Rust, N Yorks

Microsoft’s support

Sir, Sir David Omand (letter, May 16) is quite right to draw attention to the problems caused by Microsoft introducing new operating systems every few years and withdrawing support from older systems long before all their users have decided that they want something new. Each new operating system is substantially larger than the last and this may require buying a new computer. My own institution sent round a message saying that if you still use Windows XP, you will probably need to buy a new computer to upgrade to Windows 10. This causes not only unnecessary expense to individuals but does ecological harm by reducing the lifespan of computers. Surely the support for existing operating systems should not be withdrawn until there are very few users remaining. PROF SIR PETER LACHMANN, FRs
Cambridge

Bereavement balm

Sir, A significant point in Emma Duncan’s article (Comment, May 16) on bereavement was the role of the church. It is easy to bemoan falling congregations and a lack of religion in this country, but the church is there for everyone, at all times, and most particularly in their hour of need. As a churchwarden I frequently assist at funerals: most of the mourners do not usually attend church but are welcomed with open arms and find great comfort in the liturgy — and in the never-changing nature of their surroundings and atmosphere. CRISTINA FEARON
Stourton, Wilts

Betting shops

Sir, Whether increased gambling in the UK is driven by demand or by

advertising (letter, May 17), it is clear that the abolition of the “demand test” has played a significant role in the clustering of betting offices in our high streets. In 1962 Lord Chief Justice Parker said that the test meant there should be no more betting offices in a locality than were “really required by demand”.

There are now some 18 betting shops on High Street North in Newham, east London. Until the 2005 Gambling Act made “demand” an unlawful consideration on an application for new gambling premises, such a large number of betting shops in a single high street was unimaginable. GERALD GOURIET, QC
Editor of *Smith & Monckton: The Law of Gambling*

Letters to the Editor must be exclusive to The Times and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

Time off for caring is a civilised idea

Sir, Referring to the Conservatives’ pledge to provide a year’s unpaid leave to care for an elderly relative, Alice Thomson mentions the person who feels that, like a spinster in a Jane Austen novel, she would be living her life “vicariously through others” (“Caring for the elderly shouldn’t be a girl’s job”, Comment, May 17).

But the opposite view is that this is a golden opportunity for a working person to spend time with their frail elderly relative; precious days and weeks that can never be reclaimed. True, there is a financial sacrifice to be made, but the option to take secure, long-term leave with your employer’s blessing to care for a loved relative when at their most vulnerable should be celebrated as a true mark of a civilised, caring society.

And I’m not even a Tory supporter. CAROLINE BOOBIS
Newcastle upon Tyne

Memory lanes

Sir, The residents of Tyldesley, just outside Manchester, where I grew up, walk down a “wint” (letters, May 15, 16 & 17). I have always been led to understand that Tyldesley is the only place where wint is used to describe a footpath between buildings. SUSAN GARNER
Bury, Lancs

Sir, In Shrewsbury we walk along narrow medieval passageways known as “shuts” — which are always open. PETER CATES
Shrewsbury

Novel characters

Sir, In his magnificent 12-volume sequence *A Dance to the Music of Time* the novelist Anthony Powell would frequently press his gazetteer into service for names of characters (letter, May 17), among them Evadne Clapham, Barbara Goring, Ada Leintwardine, the Stepney sisters, the Tolland family, Baby Wentworth, and the incomparable Kenneth Widmerpool. PHILIP NOKES
Devizes, Wilts

Philosophy of socks

Sir, Your correspondence on Richard Dawkins’s odd socks (May 17) refers to his sense of logic but overlooks the distinguished history of logic and socks. When Bertrand Russell wanted to explain his logic’s Axiom of Choice, he imagined a millionaire with an infinite number of pairs of shoes and socks. He could make a choice of which shoe to put on first, say, by always choosing the left one, as they were different. But the socks posed an intractable problem as choosing between them would require an infinite number of random choices; hence the need for the Axiom, whose role is still a matter of dispute. YORICK WILKS
Professor of artificial intelligence, University of Sheffield

Sir, It is all very well for Mike McGinty to suggest that Richard Dawkins buy socks all of the same colour, but in my experience this is nigh impossible. Socks come in packs of three pairs: one pale-brown, one mid-brown and one dark-brown, or one pale-grey, one mid-grey and one dark-grey. NEIL PARKER
Taunton, Somerset

1914

THE FIRST

WORLD WAR

1918

ON THIS DAY MAY 18, 1917

CAPTAIN ALBERT BALL'S FATE

Captain Albert Ball, Royal Flying Corps, has been missing since May 7, but no news of him has been received since his failure to return from his last expedition. So far as is known, the facts are as follows:
On the evening of May 7 he had gone out in company with another machine, flown by a pilot whom we will call “M”. They met an enemy machine, which they attacked and drove down, riddled with bullets.

Then a party of four Germans hove in sight, with whom the British fliers promptly closed. “M” found one in such a favourable position that he was practically at its mercy, so he put his own machine into a spin and began to go down. It must be an unpleasant experience, but it was successful in shaking off the enemy. “M” regained control of his machine, climbed up again, and re-entered the fight. He tackled one of the Germans and, after a long fight, sent it down crashing to earth. Then he turned to engage another, but, on closing with it, a bullet broke his wrist and another carried away the top of his control lever. Thus crippled he could fight no more but, though in great pain and unable to control his machine, he managed to get over the lines and land his aeroplane in our own territory. Then he fainted.

What happened after “M” was obliged to leave the field of battle is a mystery. Captain Ball was then left with three enemy machines to fight. Such odds were nothing new, for only two days before he had driven down two enemies and, to make

sure, had gone down close to the ground and saw the huddled wrecks within 400 yards of each other. One had put a bullet into his engine and Captain Ball had been covered with oil. As no more enemies were in sight he came home for a wash. The next day he met a party of four Germans, and promptly diving into the centre of their formation, sent them scattering. He picked out one, chased it, and sent it crashing down. Then he looked for the others, but they were not fighting that day and made for home as fast as they could.

The precise number of enemy machines Captain Ball brought down during his career is not known. Records show 41 quite certain, and 10 more morally certain, with a large number of probabilities too. Beyond doubt his was the most wonderful series of victories yet achieved by a flying man of any nation.

SIGN UP FOR A WEEKLY EMAIL WITH EXTRACTS FROM THE TIMES HISTORY OF THE WAR WW1.THETIMES.CO.UK

Daily Universal Register

UK: The leaders’ debate is to be broadcast live from Salford; the Conservatives publish their election manifesto; the 62nd Ivor Novello Awards will take place in London. US: The UN Security Council meets in New York to discuss the situation in Syria.

Nature notes

Holly blue butterflies have been flying about conspicuously in gardens for several weeks, and now the next of the blue butterflies is appearing. This is the common blue, which is a brilliant sky-blue butterfly with variegated brown and white spots on the underside of the wings. They do not come to gardens, but are found in fields that have a mixture of grass and wildflowers, and also in rough, grassy places. The females are brown, but often have an attractive blue glow on them. They live in colonies and their caterpillars feed on flowers of the clover family, especially bird’s-foot trefoil. At night they rest on a grass stalk, often with several clinging to it, ranged one above the other. They have become less common in recent years, and this has been partly due to the sowing of perennial rye grass, which is a dense grass in which flowers do not flourish. However, they have sometimes found other grassy spots to colonise in towns. DERWENT MAY

Birthdays today

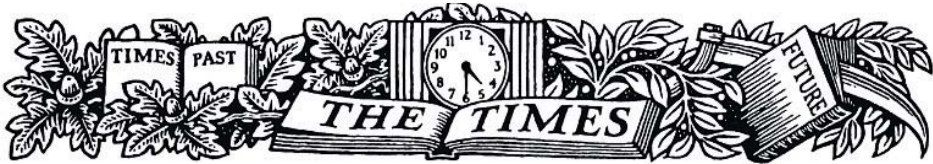
John Bruton, pictured, taoiseach, Republic of Ireland (1994-97), 70; Caroline Charles, fashion designer, 75; Lord (Patrick) Cormack, Conservative MP (1970-2010), 78; Sir Peter Dixon, chairman, Diabetes UK, 72; Prof Sir Anthony Epstein, pathologist, co-discoverer of the Epstein-Barr virus, 96; Tina Fey, comedian, 47; Dario Franchitti, racing driver, four-time IndyCar series champion (2007, 2009-11), 44; John Higgins, four-time world snooker champion, 42; Prof Dame Celia Hoyles, mathematician, government chief adviser for mathematics (2004-07), 71; Lt-Gen David Leakey, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod and Serjeant-at-Arms, House of Lords, 65; Miriam Margolyes, actress, *The Age of Innocence* (1993), Professor Sprout in the *Harry Potter* film series, 76; Prof Dame Henrietta Moore, director, UCL Institute for Global Prosperity, University College London, 60; Yannick Noah, tennis player, French Open winner (1983), 57; Marquess of Reading, chairman, Barnabas Fund UK Christian aid agency, 75; Jacques Santer, president, European Commission (1995-99), 80; Lionel Shriver, novelist, *We Need to Talk About Kevin* (2003), 60; Nobby Stiles, footballer, England (1965-70), 75; Rick Wakeman, keyboardist, Yes, 68; Jessica Watson, sailor, youngest person to sail single-handedly and nonstop around the world, 24; Toyah Willcox, singer, *I Want to Be Free* (1981), and actress, 59; Adrian Wootton, chief executive, Film London, 55.

On this day

In 1291 Acre, the remaining Christian stronghold in the Holy Land, fell to the Saracens; in 1804 Napoleon Bonaparte was proclaimed Emperor of France; in 1910 the Earth passed through the tail of Halley’s Comet, prompting predictions of disaster.

The last word

“Years ago we discovered the exact point, the dead centre of middle age. It occurs when you are too young to take up golf and too old to rush up to the net.” Franklin P Adams, journalist, *Nods and Becks* (1944).



Good Job

Britain should celebrate its lowest unemployment rate in decades. Falling earnings, however, are a serious cause for concern

Not much about the British economy of the mid-1970s is worth emulating today. Runaway inflation driven by union belligerence crippled industry, while a public debt crisis loomed. Yet for a brief period after Harold Wilson returned to office, unemployment was low. In August 1975 it stood at 4.6 per cent. It would not sink back to that level for decades but, according to new figures, it finally has. That is testament to the flexibility of the labour market and the resilience of the economy. Still, tough times may lie ahead. People are in work, but their pay packets are shrinking in real terms. That looks set to continue for a painfully long time.

There is much to celebrate in the statistics released yesterday. For all the predictions that last year’s rise in the minimum wage would spur employers to lay off workers, they seem to be hiring instead. Just under 32 million people were in work in the period January to March 2017 — more than in the previous three months or the same period a year before. The proportion of all working-age people in work has reached 74.8 per cent, the highest level since records began.

There has been a jobs boom, driven in part by unexpectedly strong consumer spending in the months after the referendum. Britain is now

knocking on the door of full employment. The figures could probably get better still if regional disparities were ironed out. In the southwest employment is high and rising, while in Northern Ireland and the West Midlands it is low and falling. This suggests that there is still untapped potential in the labour market. Infrastructure projects that connect more and less prosperous parts of the country, such as HS2, could help to realise it.

Contrary to some analyses, these are good jobs. The number of people in full-time work is growing while the number in part-time work is shrinking. The use of zero-hours contracts, under which employees are not guaranteed any work at all, seems to be tailing off. Meanwhile the approach to welfare championed by the Conservative and coalition governments, under which rights to state benefits are conditional on responsible behaviour and a genuine search for work, is bearing fruit. The number of “economically inactive” people has fallen to the lowest level on record.

Beneath the surface, however, there are some less cheering statistics. The value of the “pound in your pocket” is once again falling. For the first time in three years, real wages are going down, and this is no temporary blip. Real pay is not expected to reach pre-crisis levels until 2022. According to

forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility, this decade is likely to be the worst for pay growth since the Napoleonic wars. Whereas the biggest squeeze in the wake of the financial crisis was for those at the top, who were not protected by the welfare system, now the pain will be felt by those at the bottom. According to new analysis by the Resolution Foundation, the poorest third of working-age households will see their real incomes fall by 10 per cent in the next four years.

The great economic challenge for the next government is to raise Britain’s obstinately low productivity so that every hour of work is worth more, pays more and yields more tax revenue. That means investing in the skills of British workers. It also means a sensible, economically driven immigration policy in which the shape and size of the workforce is determined by supply and demand. Retaining maximum access to the European single market is paramount to keeping up employment and pay.

Just as it would have been foolish in 1975 to celebrate auspicious employment figures while neglecting problems elsewhere, so it would be today. Wilson once labelled himself “an optimist, but an optimist who carries a raincoat”. If there is a storm coming, Britain must be prepared.

Food for Thought

The Lib Dems’ electoral hopes are easily dismissed. Their manifesto should not be

The Liberal Democrats’ manifesto, published yesterday, is an exercise not so much in wishful thinking as in thinking, pure and simple. Whereas Labour’s hopes of power are forlorn, the Lib Dems’ are hypothetical. Jeremy Corbyn left it to Len McCluskey, the Unite leader, to admit that their party has virtually no chance of victory on June 8. Tim Farron, the Lib Dem leader, has admitted it himself. “To be clear,” he writes, “Theresa May’s Conservative Party is on course to win this election.” This early admission of defeat is highly unconventional. It is also ironic, for the Lib Dem manifesto happens to be clever, coherent and costed.

In 96 pages of policies, four stand out. The most attractive is a comprehensive package of proposals to deal with the scourge of diesel pollution that is choking voters and their children, sometimes to death, throughout urban Britain. Unlike Labour, the Lib Dems would ban the sale of new diesel cars and small vans from 2025 and introduce a national scrappage scheme to help to get old ones off the roads. Mr Farron’s party would also create low-emissions zones in ten of the country’s most polluted conurbations.

On a new list of countries ranked by deaths attributable to air pollution, Britain fares worse than Mexico and worse than much of western Europe. No one welcomes such a finding but it drives home the need for drastic action and the other parties’ blindness in failing to promise it.

Having cleared the air, the Lib Dems would foul it again, or perfume it, depending on your view. Their manifesto commits the party to the idea of legalising cannabis. The most persuasive criticism of this policy has long been that it would leave users vulnerable to dangerously potent “skunk” cannabis, seen as a gateway drug to others more addictive and more deadly. The Lib Dems claim that their regulated market would take skunk off the streets and remove the profit motive for criminal gangs that now control its distribution.

The party says that a cannabis sales tax would raise £1 billion to be spent on public services. In all, it commits to spending plans that would cost £14 billion more than those of the present government. The third notable feature of the manifesto is that it leaves university tuition fees in place.

To do away with tuition fees, as Labour would,

might appeal to party members nostalgic for pre-coalition days, but it would be unaffordable and would threaten the vastly increased access to higher education that fees have made possible. Accepting them as a fact of life shows a maturity that Labour patently lacks.

The defining feature of the Lib Dem platform, is its stance on Brexit. As expected, the party makes a direct pitch for Remain voters with the promise of a second referendum on the terms of any deal, with the option of staying in the EU on the ballot paper. This newspaper opposes such a referendum. The idea smacks of dragging people back to the polling booths until they produce the desired result. But it has the merit of giving voters a clear alternative to Tory policy on the central issue of this election, where Labour offers only confusion.

Mr Farron says that his aim is to make the Lib Dems the official opposition. Their chances have not been helped by his leadership. It is tantalising to wonder how the party might have fared with a more charismatic figure to articulate the adventurous ideas in this manifesto. Conservatives should read it with an open mind.

Gagged Science

The government cannot hide behind purdah rules to muzzle independent experts

As taxpayers, Britons spend billions on government-sponsored scientific research and expertise. As voters, we are denied the benefits of that expertise by rules intended to keep the civil service out of politics at election time. This makes no sense. Scientists, with few exceptions, are not civil servants. Their expertise may embarrass politicians but that is a reason to air it, not suppress it. Scientists do not belong in “purdah”.

None of this should need saying, but the enforcement of purdah rules under this government has acquired a troubling momentum that has taken them into territory where they do not

belong. This month reporters seeking comment from the Met Office on a story about the slowdown of global warming in the first decade of this century were told that none could be offered in case it was seen as political. In another case, scientists on an independent advisory committee were asked for their opinion of the government’s new air quality plan. All they could say was that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) had told them to say nothing.

No surprise there. The air quality plan has been described by unmuzzled scientists as weak and toothless. To its great credit, the High Court has

ordered that the plan be published even though Defra again sought to abuse purdah rules to keep it out of the spotlight during the election.

As we report today, a dozen scientific and research bodies have written to Sir Jeremy Heywood, the cabinet secretary, asking him to confirm that scientists are not bound by purdah rules unless employed by the government. He should do just that, but the responsibility to protect scientific freedom of speech rests ultimately with ministers, chief among them the environment secretary, Andrea Leadsom. It is past time for her to let experts speak their mind.

World

Comey summoned to reveal if Trump obstructed justice

United States

Rhys Blakely Washington

Congress has asked James Comey to testify in public, paving the way for a televised showdown over his allegation that President Trump tried to interfere with an FBI investigation.

Word of his invitation to speak before the Senate intelligence committee came as the Justice Department appointed a special counsel last night to investigate Mr Trump's alleged links with Russia.

President Putin offered help to his US counterpart yesterday, proposing to supply Congress with a transcript of an Oval Office meeting last week between Mr Trump and the Russian foreign minister, to prove that Mr Trump did not leak top secret intelligence.

Mr Putin said: "If the US administration deems it possible, we are ready to provide a record of the discussion between [Sergey] Lavrov and Trump to the US Senate and Congress."

Mr Trump had been the victim of a campaign of disinformation, Mr Putin said. "It's hard to imagine what else these people who generate such nonsense and rubbish can dream up next."

Mr Putin's intervention prompted Adam Schiff, the senior Democrat on the House intelligence committee, to observe: "Probably the last person [Mr Trump] needs to vouch for him right now is Vladimir Putin."

There was a push from Republicans in Congress to learn more about a conversation between Mr Comey and Mr Trump in the Oval Office in February. Three separate congressional committees have demanded to see a two-page memo written by Mr Comey in which he claimed that Mr Trump asked him to drop an investigation into Mike Flynn, the former national security adviser.

The White House has flatly denied that the request was made.

Mr Flynn was forced to resign on



President Trump denies attempting to influence an investigation by the FBI

February 13, 24 days into the job, after the justice department suggested to the White House that he was vulnerable to blackmail, having lied about conversations with a Russian ambassador.

According to the memo, Mr Trump told Mr Comey: "I hope you can let this go... I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go."

The allegation that Mr Trump asked Mr Comey to end inquiries into Mr Flynn's Russian links is the most serious of a cascade of negative stories in recent days. Mr Comey, who was fired by Mr Trump last week, was leading an FBI investigation into whether the Trump election campaign colluded with the Kremlin. He is understood to have kept detailed notes of his conversations with Mr Trump; a common practice in the FBI, whose agents have a saying: "If you don't write it down, it didn't happen."

Mr Comey is said to have shared several notes with colleagues as he grew increasingly concerned about Mr Trump's style of governing. He declined a previous invitation to give evidence to the Senate in a closed session, with his associates saying he was keen to share his story but wanted to do so in public.

The House oversight committee, one

of four congressional committees conducting an investigation into alleged links between Mr Trump's aides and Russia, announced that it had invited Mr Comey to testify in public next Wednesday.

If he accepts, he is certain to be asked why Andrew McCabe, acting head of the FBI, said last week that there had been no attempt by the White House to intervene in the bureau's investigation into Russian meddling.

One possible answer, former FBI agents say, is that Mr Comey limited access to his memo, not wanting his conversations with Mr Trump to taint his agents' inquiries. "He wrote down every word Trump said to him as soon as he could," one source said.

Mr Trump's supporters fear he is fast losing political capital as the White House lurches from crisis to crisis. Justin Amash of Michigan became the first Republican congressman to say that the Comey memo, if accurate, provided potential grounds for impeachment.

Some White House aides fear they could face subpoenas for their personal emails and are wondering whether they should start looking for lawyers.

Comparisons have been drawn with the Watergate scandal, which forced Richard Nixon to resign the presidency. John Dean, an adviser to Nixon, called the Comey memo "a direct parallel to the 'smoking gun tape' where [Nixon] asked the CIA to intervene and halt the FBI investigation — and that, of course, ended his presidency."

Mr Trump leaves Washington tomorrow for his first overseas trip as president. His staff hope that the tour of Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Vatican, Italy, and Belgium will offer a chance to steady the ship.

Mr Trump was due to interview four candidates to replace Mr Comey as FBI director yesterday, including Joe Lieberman, 75, the 2000 Democratic vice-presidential nominee.



Q&A

What has President Trump done wrong?

The allegation against Donald Trump is that he had asked James Comey, the FBI director who was sacked last week, to drop an investigation into possible ties between Mike Flynn, his former national security adviser, and Russia. If this is true, Mr Trump may have committed a federal offence, obstruction of justice, which is defined as any attempt to "influence, obstruct or impede" the proper administration of law.

What happens next?

Four investigations are under way on Capitol Hill to look into links between Russia and Mr Trump, his presidential campaign and his associates. The appointment of Robert Mueller, a former FBI director, as special counsel was a significant step in ratcheting up the investigation.

What is a special counsel?

Similar to a special prosecutor, a role phased out in 1999, a special counsel is an independent investigator appointed when there is a conflict of interest for the authorities. While congressional investigations

are limited by the brief of the committee conducting them, a special counsel has free rein to look into anything they consider relevant.

Is there a precedent?

The last special prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, began looking into President Clinton's assets in 1994 as the Whitewater investment scandal grew, and eventually filed a report revealing that Mr Clinton had tried to cover up an affair with Monica Lewinsky, a White House intern. Mr Clinton was impeached for obstruction of justice by the House of Representatives, although he was acquitted by the Senate. President Nixon resigned as

the House prepared to impeach him on similar charges over Watergate.

Is Mr Trump vulnerable to impeachment?

A majority in the House must vote to adopt articles of impeachment listing "high crimes and misdemeanours" that are grounds for removal of the president. That would start a trial in the Senate, presided over by the chief justice of the Supreme Court, where a two-thirds majority is needed for conviction. With Republicans in control of both houses of Congress, Mr Trump is a long way from such a prospect. However, the 2018 mid-term elections could change the outlook.

Erdogan bodyguards

Boer Deng Washington

Police said yesterday that they would pursue charges against supporters of President Erdogan accused of attacking Kurdish protesters outside the Turkish embassy in Washington.

Nine people received hospital treatment after the incident on Tuesday.

As President Trump welcomed the Turkish leader to the White House demonstrators arrived outside the embassy with placards reading "Free Demirtas" — a reference to Selahattin Demirtas, the jailed leader of the left-wing HDP party.

Supporters of Mr Erdogan, includ-

ing men in suits said to have been part of his security team, gathered across the street and began shouting pro-Erdogan slogans. Video footage shows the suited men then crossing a police line and attacking the protesters. One man was kicked in the head and a young Kurdish woman was beaten.

Flint Arthur, one of the demonstrators, said: "We are protesting [Erdogan's] policies in Turkey, in Syria and in Iraq." He accused Mr Erdogan's supporters of thuggery. "They think they can engage in the same sort of suppression of protest and free speech that they engage in in Turkey."

The demonstrators blamed Mr

Meet Omar, the world's biggest cat
Page 33



Cardinal picked by Pope faces child abuse charges
Page 34



Supporters of President Erdogan cross the street to attack protesters outside the Turkish embassy, leaving many bloodied, despite efforts by Washington police officers to keep the rival groups apart



attack protesters in Washington

Erdogan's supporters for the violence. "All of a sudden they just ran towards us," Lucy Usoyan, a Yazidi Kurd, told ABC. "Someone was beating me in the head nonstop, and I thought: 'I'm on the ground already, what is the purpose to beat me?'"

Mr Erdogan's supporters blamed the protesters. "We weren't doing anything wrong," Mustafa Dikilitas told ABC television. "We just celebrated our president."

Police used batons to separate the factions and arrested two men. One was charged with aggravated assault and the other with assaulting a police officer. "We witnessed what appeared

to be a brutal attack on peaceful protesters," Peter Newsham, the Washington police chief, said. "We intend to ensure there is accountability for anyone who was involved in this assault." He said questions of diplomatic immunity would not prevent possible arrests.

Anadolu, the semi-official Turkish news agency, said Mr Erdogan's bodyguards had been involved in the clash. It blamed the incident on inadequate policing by the Americans.

Muriel Browser, the mayor of Washington, condemned the actions of the Erdogan supporters. "What we saw yesterday — a violent attack on a peaceful demonstration — is an

affront to DC values and our rights as Americans," she said.

"We are communicating our concern to the Turkish government in the strongest possible terms," a state department spokeswoman said.

Mr Erdogan's visit was shadowed by controversy, with critics accusing Mr Trump of undermining democratic values by welcoming an authoritarian leader. However, Mr Trump declared the meeting a success.

The two leaders have clashed over the US's decision to arm the Syrian Kurd YPG militia as it advances towards the Isis stronghold of Raqqa. **Anthony Loyd, page 32**

Ousted FBI director is a man who likes a showdown

Profile

The episode that made James Comey's reputation could have been stripped from a paperback thriller (Rhys Blakely writes).

It featured a top-secret government surveillance programme, a senior official slipping in and out of consciousness, and a car speeding through Capitol Hill.

Mr Comey, 56, would emerge from it as a Washington legend: an agent of the law unafraid to stare the White House down.

In 2004 Mr Comey was deputy attorney-general in the administration of George W Bush and was leading a review of a top-secret National Security Agency wiretapping programme codenamed Stellar Wind. A week before a deadline for it to be renewed, Mr Comey concluded that it was illegal. His boss, John Ashcroft, fell acutely ill and was put into intensive care. Mr Comey became acting attorney-general.

A day later Mr Comey told the White House that Stellar Wind had to be closed. The administration bridled. Alberto Gonzales, the top White House lawyer, and Andrew Card, the president's chief of staff, were sent to Mr Ashcroft's hospital bed to get him to approve the extension.

Mr Comey was

tipped off and raced to the hospital, the lights on his government car flashing. He rushed up the stairs to reach Mr Ashcroft first. The Secret Service was ordered to guard the door. "I was concerned that, given how ill the attorney-general was, that there might be an effort to ask him to overrule me when he was in no condition to do that," he testified years later.

Those events made him a Justice Department legend. Mr Comey, who is 6ft 5in, seemed to tower above Washington, both literally and figuratively — a man who had defied a president. In 2013 Barack Obama made him the director of the FBI, a post that is usually held for a set term of ten years, to insulate it from political pressures.

Early in his career he gained a reputation as a fierce prosecutor. He brought cases against the Gambino crime family in New York and led an investigation into the

1996 Khobar Towers bombing, which killed 19 Americans in Saudi Arabia. He prosecuted Martha Stewart, the TV celebrity, for insider trading.

Mr Comey's first brush with crime had come in 1977, when he and his younger brother were held at home by an armed man. They escaped through a window.

As FBI director he guarded his political independence. His height made him a candidate for the basketball games that Mr Obama arranged as president. Mr Comey — who was registered as a Republican before declaring himself independent — declined to play, refusing to be seen socialising with the commander-in-chief. He is said to have been deeply uneasy when Mr Trump invited him to a private dinner in January. Associates of Mr Comey allege that the president asked for a pledge of personal loyalty. If that is true, then Mr Trump misjudged him.

During last year's presidential election Mr Comey, 56, angered both parties with his handling of the Hillary Clinton email case. The Democrats believe that he swayed voters towards Mr Trump by publicly reviving the investigation 11 days before the election. The Republicans

believe he treated her too leniently. He was attacked from all sides for poor judgment — but nobody ever accused him of distorting the truth.



President has four-minute attention span, Nato briefed

Boer Deng

Speeches at President Trump's first Nato summit next week will be limited to four minutes, in order to keep him engaged.

Nato officials may also adopt tactics from the White House, such as repeating the president's name and using maps and graphs, to keep him interested in proceedings. Mr Trump asks his staff to restrict memos to one page and few of his meetings last more than 15 minutes.

The National Security Council officials have taken to including Mr Trump's name in "as many paragraphs

as we can because he keeps reading if he's mentioned", a source said yesterday.

Another official said: "He likes to visualise things. The guy's a builder. He has spent his whole life looking at architectural renderings and floor plans."

While running for president, Mr Trump pitched himself as an efficient businessman who would cut bureaucratic red tape. He dismissed Nato as an obsolete alliance.

The US is among five of the 28 member states that have hit Nato's defence spending target of 2 per cent of GDP. It is expected to push for all countries to meet that goal.

Fears for Syria's future after the fall of Raqqa

US may widen conflict by arming Turkish foe, **Anthony Loyd** writes from Kobani



"The enemy of my enemy is my friend" is a well-worn phrase used to describe the jumble of unlikely bedfellows who share a common interest in their desire to annihilate Islamic State.

The US is about to find out what happens when the enemy of my friend is my friend too. To the anger of Turkey, the Trump administration has decided to arm the YPG, the Syrian-Kurd fighting group which is America's ally of choice on the ground in the coming battle to capture Raqqa, Isis's de facto capital.

Turkey regards the YPG as a terrorist group and has concerns over its power in Syria. Ankara has sent planes and artillery shells to bombard the YPG on numerous occasions, most recently last month when it bombed the YPG's headquarters in northeastern Syria, killing key commanders in an act that outraged US officers on the ground and nearly scuppered the Raqqa operation.

"There were a couple of days after the strikes when several of our leading commanders and many of our people put on the pressure to withdraw our forces from the Raqqa front altogether and send them to protect our borders with Turkey," Al-dar Khalil, an adviser within Rojava, the Kurds' self-administrated

Thousands of people have fled Raqqa as Kurdish troops advance

Syrian cantons, said. "They wanted to stop the Raqqa operation. We had to explain very carefully that this was Erdogan's goal, and to persuade them to continue."

From a military perspective the YPG is the natural choice of US ally. As the leading element within the 50,000-strong Syrian Democratic Forces, the YPG's fighting units are highly motivated, well organised and battle hardened. Western special forces officers like and trust them.

By comparison the motley array of Syrian Islamic groups fielded by Turkey as its own allies in the war are feral, penetrated by Isis's counterintelligence service and militarily inept.

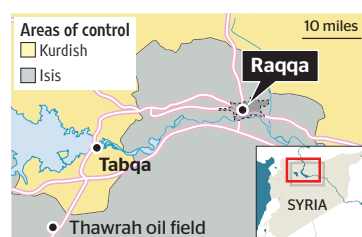
"Unless they get shoe-horned forward with airstrikes not much happens on an operation," one Western official said after returning from a posting in southern Turkey.

The US relationship with the YPG is fraught with complexity. The Syrian Kurds are a non-state actor with few regional allies. Their relationship with the Assad regime is symbiotic and prone to break down. Turkey bombs them and they are in dispute with the Iraqi Kurds across the border in northern Iraq, where both parties are embroiled in a Kurd-on-Kurd conflict over control of the area around Sinjar, resulting in a trade embargo on Rojava. Giving the YPG weapons in the absence of any guarantee about their future status risks broadening the scope of conflict, rather than suppressing it.

Obvious conditions to the supply of US arms to the YPG should include a credible disassociation by the group from the PKK, the Kurdish separatist group fighting inside Turkey; the withdrawal of YPG fighters from northern Iraq; a cessation in the repression of rival



All-women militia groups are part of the 50,000-strong alliance fighting Isis



political parties in YPG areas; and an agreement to withdraw from Raqqa, an Arab city, once it is captured.

In return for the capture of Raqqa, the US should push for the Syrian Kurds to be fairly represented in the Geneva negotiations process; encourage Iraq's Kurdish authorities to lift their trade embargo on Rojava; support the Syrian Kurds' wish for autonomy; finance the reconstruction of the Kurdish cantons in Syria; and prevent Turkey and its proxies from future attacks on Kurdish lands there. So far

there is little evidence of any political process behind the scenes and the regional lesson of the 2003 invasion of Iraq — that military action without political strategy produces certain disaster — appears to have been forgotten.

"What happens after Mosul and Raqqa? Are the Americans even considering this question?" a senior Kurdish adviser to the government in Iraqi Kurdistan asked. "The whole focus is led by the military, and focused entirely on defeating the Daesh [Isis] without any thought to what happens next. It's like 2003 never happened."

So what will happen when a friend's enemy is also my friend?

In the absence of immediate and sophisticated political planning entrenched around clearly stated conditions, merely arming the Syrian Kurds may produce the one answer America least wants: that they all become enemies.

Irish PM steps down as leader of Fine Gael

Dublin Enda Kenny, the Irish prime minister, stood down as leader of the Fine Gael party last night, clearing the way for a new premier. His departure had long been expected after the party returned to power last year in a fragile minority coalition dependent on the support of Fianna Fail, the opposition party. The government narrowly survived a no-confidence motion in February after allegations that senior officers in Ireland's police force had engaged in a smear campaign against a whistleblower. The new leader is due to be announced on June 2.

Isis claims suicide attack

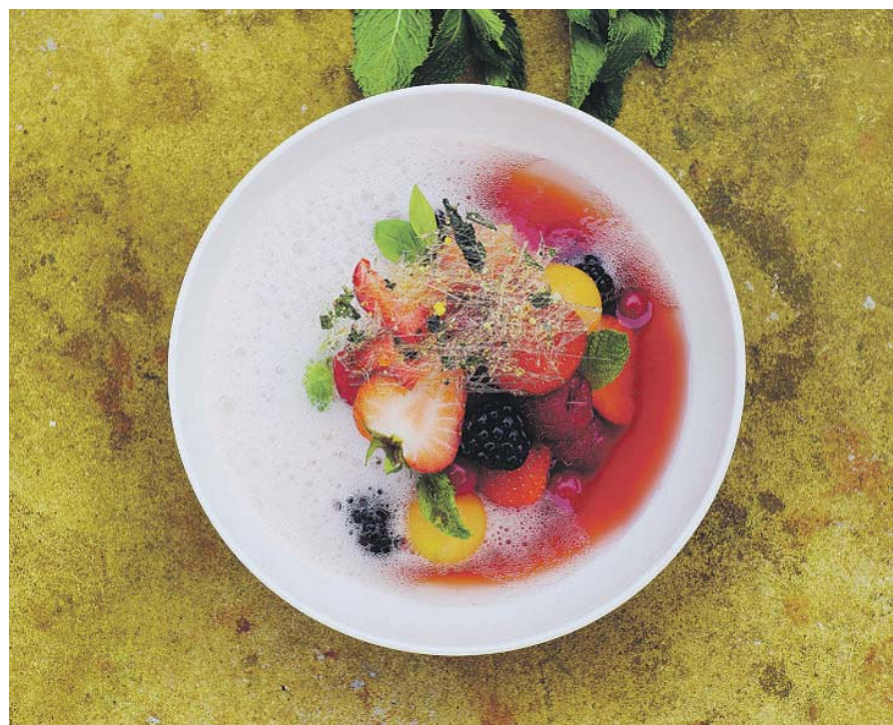
Kabul Islamic State has claimed responsibility for a suicide bomb and gun attack on the headquarters of Afghanistan's state media in Jalalabad that killed seven people and wounded at least 18. All four attackers died in the fighting. Isis has become increasingly active in Nangarhar province, which borders Pakistan. Last month the US dropped its largest non-nuclear bomb on an Isis tunnel complex there. (AFP)

Bribery admiral jailed

San Diego The first US navy admiral to be convicted of a federal crime while on active duty has been jailed for 18 months. Robert Gilbeau admitted he lied to investigators when he said he had not received gifts from Leonard Francis, nicknamed Fat Leonard. Francis, who is awaiting sentencing, has admitted bribing navy officials in exchange for classified information on his food and fuel supply company. (AP)

Briton freed by Congo

Copenhagen A British man who was sentenced to death in Congo in 2009 has been freed and has flown back to Norway, where he has joint citizenship. Joshua French and his friend Tjostolv Moland denied murdering their driver, saying that they were ambushed by gunmen. In 2014 Mr French was also found guilty of strangling Mr Moland, who was found dead in his cell. Mr French said he had killed himself. (AP)



Raymond Blanc's summer recipe guide

He's a top chef with two Michelin stars but Raymond Blanc is also the master of deliciously simple food. Don't miss his glossy recipe pullout, exclusively in The Times.

Pick up your copy of The Times this Saturday.

THE TIMES
Know your times

Biggest cat in the world eats raw roo

Omar is the cat that got the cream, and it looks like he ate most of it (Bernard Lagan writes). A Maine coon, he measures 1.2m (3ft 11in) and weighs 14kg (2st 3lb), making him three times the size of the average house cat.

Now he is to be named the world's biggest cat, having been spotted on Instagram by the Guinness World Record team. Stephanie Hirst, his owner, said: "We were expecting about a 9kg cat and he got to that before he was one year old. That's when we realised he's not nearly done yet and we've got a really big cat on our hands."

Ms Hirst, who lives in Melbourne, said that Omar's favourite dinner was raw kangaroo and his favourite activity was doing nothing at all.



Macron urges team to revive France and EU

France

Charles Bremner Paris

Emmanuel Macron put two reform-minded conservatives in charge of the French economy yesterday in a cross-party cabinet shaped for his push to "relaunch" the European Union.

Bruno Le Maire, a former agriculture minister and presidential contender for the conservative Republicans party, was appointed economy minister, while Gérald Darmanin, 34, also from the Republicans, became budget minister.

The cabinet of 11 men and 11 women includes two outgoing Socialist ministers, notably Jean-Yves Le Drian, 69, President Hollande's long-serving defence minister, who became foreign minister. To emphasise President Macron's priority of reviving the EU, the portfolio has been renamed minister of European and foreign affairs.

The arrival of the two Republicans widened splits in the centre-right party, which is seeking to oppose the centrist president in parliamentary elections next month. Édouard Philippe, 46, the new prime minister, is also a defector from the party long dominated by Nicolas Sarkozy.

To try to halt further defec-

Emmanuel Macron has attracted three defectors from the rival Republicans



tions, Mr Philippe and the two other Republicans defectors were told by the party leadership last night that they had been expelled.

Mr Le Maire, 48, is a former diplomat and junior minister for Europe under President Sarkozy. He speaks fluent German and knows the country well. Mr Le Maire will carry the main responsibility for overseeing the overhaul of the stagnant economy that Mr Macron, 39, a former economy minister under President Hollande, pledged.

Reviving France is a precondition to the new president's plans to convince the Germans to agree to underpin the euro with a eurozone "government" and budget. Mr Le Maire, who served as chief of staff to Dominique de Villepin, a conservative prime minister, is a free-marketeer who campaigned in the Republicans' presidential primary election last year for the deregulation of the labour laws that Mr Macron is seeking. His eighth book, *Ne vous résignez pas!* (Don't give up), blamed France's economic decline on "our collective cowardice".

In another appointment with a strong European aspect, Sylvie Goulard, 52, a centrist who is one of the most influential members of the

European parliament, becomes minister of defence. The most senior woman in the new team, she will have the task of promoting Mr Macron's ambitions for an EU defence force — a project that becomes more feasible with Britain's departure from the Union.

Mr Macron appointed one of his closest supporters, Gérard Collomb, 70, the Socialist mayor of Lyons, as interior minister, with the rank of No 2 in the cabinet. François Bayrou, 65, leader of the centrist Mouvement Démocrate party, becomes justice minister.

Among the new names from outside politics, Nicolas Hulot, 62, a broadcaster who campaigns for the environment, was put in charge of ecology; Françoise Nyssen, 65, a publisher, becomes culture minister, and Laura Flessel-Colovic, 45, an Olympic fencing champion from Guadeloupe, was put in charge of sports.

The team is under orders to make its mark before the parliamentary elections next month, in which Mr Macron's party, La République en Marche, is seeking to gain a working majority. If the Republicans succeed in winning the largest number of parliamentary seats, they could force Mr Macron to accept a government led by François Baroin, 51, the party's new leader.

Simon Nixon, page 41

Macron's cabinet

Left	Centre	Conservatives (Right)
Jacques Mézard Agriculture	François Bayrou Justice	Édouard Philippe Prime minister
Jean-Yves Le Drian Foreign	Sylvie Goulard Defence	Bruno Le Maire Economy
Richard Ferrand Territorial Cohesion	Marielle de Sarnez Europe	Gérald Darmanin Budget
Annick Girardin Overseas Territories		
Outsiders		Jean-Michel Blanquer Education, business school head
Nicolas Hulot Ecology Minister, television presenter		Frédérique Vidal Higher Education, university head
Agnès Buzyn Health, medical professor		Laura Flessel-Colovic Sport, Olympic fencing champion
Françoise Nyssen Culture, publisher		Elisabeth Borne Transport, head of Paris transport
Muriel Pénicaud Labour, businesswoman		

Dutch king keeps KLM pilot role under the radar

The Netherlands

Bruno Waterfield Brussels

Travellers will be looking with fresh interest at their air crews after a revelation by King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands that he has a secret life moonlighting as a pilot for the Dutch airline KLM.

The king, 50, who ascended the throne after his much-loved mother Beatrix abdicated in 2013, told *De Telegraaf* newspaper that he was more than a regular constitutional monarch.

"I find flying just fantastic," he said. "You can't take your day-to-day problems with you into the air. You can completely switch off and focus on something else. That, for me, is the most relaxing thing about flying."

The king has been flying once a fortnight as a co-pilot for KLM, which stands for Royal Dutch Airlines. He intends to carry on flying Fokker 70 aircraft but will spend the summer learning to fly Boeing 737s.

Unbeknown to thousands of KLM Cityhopper travellers, particularly in



The king flies for KLM

Britain, Germany and Norway, they have been flown by a reigning monarch over the past four years.

His work remained under the radar because his name was never announced and he was rarely recognised in uniform welcoming passengers on to flights.

"The advantage is that I can always say that I warmly welcome passengers on behalf of the captain and crew," King Willem-Alexander said. "Then I don't have to give my name. But then, most people don't listen anyway."

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Sharia court sends gay men to be caned 85 times

Indonesia

Richard Lloyd Parry Asia Editor

A young Indonesian man pleaded for leniency after he and another man were sentenced to be flogged for homosexuality by a Sharia court.

The men, aged 20 and 23, will receive 85 strokes of the cane each, five more than requested by prosecutors, some time before the fasting month of Ramadan, which begins a week tomorrow.

Asked by the judge whether he

accepted the court's decision, one of the men said: "Please reduce my sentence."

They were arrested after vigilantes broke into their rented room and attacked them in an incident videoed and posted on the internet. They are seen being taunted, slapped and kicked as they beseeched the group not to report them to Sharia police in Aceh. Their assailants were not charged.

"The defendants are proven to have committed sodomy and are found guilty," Khairil Jamal, the presiding

judge, said. "As Muslims, the defendants should uphold the Sharia that prevails in Aceh."

The sentence was handed down as activists across the world were marking the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. "This is another low point for Aceh and also for Indonesia," Andreas Harsono, of Human Rights Watch, said. "The verdict will increase fear among LGBT people not only in Aceh but also in many other provinces. It shows the

increasingly conservative judiciary in Indonesia."

About 90 per cent of Indonesia's 250 million people are Muslims, making it the largest Islamic population.

Indonesian Islam has traditionally been more tolerant than the more austere forms practised in the Middle East. In the past two decades, however, more stringent religious rules have been established. Only Aceh, Indonesia's most devout province, has Sharia, enforced by dedicated police, and

corporal punishment as well as prison. Sharia offences, which can be enforced against non-Muslims, include consuming alcohol and, for women, wearing tight clothes or no scarf.

In 2015 Islamic leaders banned Muslims dressing up as Father Christmas. An online messaging service was pressured into withdrawing "emoicons" showing images of homosexuality, such as two girls holding hands, and a pair of cartoon boys embracing with the slogan "Love is love".

Police accused of failing to arrest Berlin lorry killer

Germany

David Charter Berlin

German police have been accused of failing to arrest the Berlin Christmas market killer months before the attack and then forging a document to cover up their ineptitude.

Andreas Geisel, the city's minister in charge of security, said last night that he had launched a criminal complaint against persons unknown inside the Berlin state criminal investigation department.

He added that documents had been found during an internal review that showed an attempted cover-up of earlier surveillance on Anis Amri, 24, the failed Tunisian asylum seeker who killed a lorry driver and drove his vehicle into the crowds, killing 11 more.



The authorities "covered up Anis Amri's large-scale drug dealing"

Amri was a serious drug dealer and there was enough evidence to charge him earlier in 2016, Mr Geisel said. Three weeks after the attack a document was created by police and backdated to November 1, suggesting that Amri was just a small-time dealer in an attempt to excuse officers for not arresting him.

Amri was shot dead while on the run in Milan four days after the attack.

"This news is depressing and sheds a whole new light on this attack," Mr Geisel said. "To put it clearly, on this basis of an arrest it might have been possible to prevent this attack."

Amri, who came to Germany in mid-2015, was rejected for asylum but the

authorities had been unable to deport him because of paperwork problems in Tunisia.

He registered at refugee centres around Germany and used many aliases. Within months of his arrival the authorities added Amri to a list of potentially violent Islamic extremists. Berlin prosecutors launched an investigation into him in March last year after a tip-off from federal security agencies that warned that he might be planning a break-in to finance the purchase of automatic weapons for a possible future attack.

A newly surfaced document from November detailed telephone surveillance and accused Amri of large-scale drug dealing, Mr Geisel said. "In experts' opinion, this information would have been sufficient to secure an arrest warrant from prosecutors," he added.

A second criminal police document was created on January 17 but apparently backdated, Mr Geisel said. That document mentions drug dealing on a very small scale.

The new information was unearthed in an investigation by Bruno Jost, a former federal prosecutor appointed by the city to examine possible errors by the authorities in the case. Mr Geisel said that officials would question staff before suspending anyone.

Politicians have criticised security officials for repeatedly failing to arrest Amri. MPs in North-Rhine Westphalia, where Amri had lived, were told that he was known in December 2015 to have researched bomb-making online and was heard talking last February of wanting to die for Allah and finding fellow radicals to join him in an attack.

In September and October police received information from Tunisian and Moroccan security agencies that Amri supported Islamic State and "wanted to carry out a project" in Germany.



G'day petal The watersports label Duskie made a splash with 1950s-style flowery swimming hats and cat-eye shades at Mercedes-Benz fashion week in Sydney

Adviser to the Pope faces child sex charges

Australia

Bernard Lagan Sydney
Tom Kington Rome

The Pope's top adviser on church finances can be charged in relation to child sexual abuse, prosecutors have advised the Australian police.

Cardinal George Pell, Australia's most senior Catholic, was handpicked by Pope Francis in 2014 to reform the Vatican's finances, a task that will suffer a setback if police in Melbourne decide to go ahead with the charges.

Allegations that the cardinal mishandled cases of sexual abuse of boys by clergy between 1978 and 2001 were first aired by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation last July. At least two men, now in their forties, also claimed to have been groped by him at a public swimming pool in the small city of Ballarat, in Victoria, in the 1970s.

A royal commission was told in February that one in ten priests who served in Ballarat had abuse claims levelled against them from 1950 to 2010.

Officers interviewed the 75-year-old cardinal in Rome in October. Charlie Morton, a spokesman for Victoria police, said that detectives would consider the director of public prosecution's advice.

Cardinal Pell, as prefect for the economy of the Holy See, reports directly to the Pope. Unless he agrees to return to Australia to face any charges that might be laid against him it is possible that he will never appear in court.

Donald Rothwell, an expert in international law at the Australian National University, said that the police force would find it very difficult to force him to return home. Australia does not have an extradition treaty with the Vatican.

A statement released yesterday by a spokesman for Cardinal Pell denied the allegations. "Each and every allegation of abuse and cover-up against him is false," the spokesman said. A Vatican spokesman declined to comment.

Ethical dilemmas over children created from donor skin cells

United States

Will Pavia New York

In the decades since the first test tube baby, doctors and ethicists have argued that parents do not have to be genetically related to their children to be considered a mother or a father.

Now many are scrambling to prepare for a technology that could upend the debate and generate a new set of moral and ethical quandaries over human reproduction. In-vitro gametogenesis, or

IVG, involves the creation of eggs and sperm from skin cells. In Japan, a team led by Katsuhiko Hayashi used the technique on mice, transforming skin cells from adult female mice into egg cells, which were fertilised and implanted and produced a litter of healthy mice pups.

Though there is some distance between a man and a mouse, IVG could potentially allow infertile couples to produce children genetically related to both the mother and the father, sup-

planting in-vitro fertilisation, where typically, a donor egg is fertilised by the man's sperm. It could allow gay couples to raise children descended from both partners and has even raised the prospect of "multiplex parenting". Two couples could produce an embryo: one would be used to create an egg, the other would be used to make sperm — so the child would have four parents.

In a paper published this year, in *Science Translational Medicine*, two medical professors and a law professor

warned that IVG could "raise the spectre of 'embryo farming' on a scale currently unimaginable, which might exacerbate concerns about the devaluation of human life".

Glenn Cohen, of Harvard's law school, Eli Adashi, a medical professor at Brown University, and George Daley, dean of the Harvard medical school, also imagined "an individual using someone else's sloughed skin cells to derive gametes for reproductive purposes". Thus a stalker might seek to

have George Clooney's child, from skin he left behind on a coffee cup.

At George Washington University, Sonia Suter, a law professor, saw a larger issue looming. The era of IVF, she said, had led to a broad agreement that parents need not be genetically related to their children, but that could now change.

She said: "There is a concern, [with IVG] that we are reverting back to this privileging of a genetic connection. There are real tensions there."



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Shiny dancer This man is dressed as the Hindu god Vishnu for a performance of the Theyyam ritual dance in Kerala, India

Louvre to the rescue for stressed grandparents

France

Adam Sage Paris

The Louvre has come to the rescue of grandparents struggling to broaden the cultural vista of their grandchildren.

The Louvre-Lens, the museum's annex in Pas-de-Calais, is hosting workshops for those who want to convince children that there is more to art than videogames. "The art of being

grandparents" was inspired by staff who saw visitors struggling with inattentive grandchildren amid Egyptian antiquities and renaissance paintings.

Marion Charneau, who is organising the course, said: "It is not always easy to come here with children ... The aim is to find tricks to capture their attention."

The two-hour workshops give practical information on the children's books and games at the Louvre-Lens, and

staff explain how to use the multimedia guides. There are tips on how to make the likes of Botticelli, Reubens and Leonardo Da Vinci fun, including asking children to describe works as if to a blindfolded listener, and finding all the paintings featuring animals.

The course also supplies an answer for children asking why people in the works are naked — that they are mostly gods, and gods don't need clothes.

Texan sues first date who texted at movie

United States

Will Pavia New York

On the screen at a multiplex cinema in Texas a troop of interstellar superheroes were beset by a monster and a fleet of drones, and by new revelations about the mysterious father of their leader.

Yet Brandon Vezmar, 37, watching from his seat as the drama developed, witnessed an even greater outrage unfolding before his very eyes: the woman beside him, his date for the evening, was texting on her phone.

Mr Vezmar is wreaking a terrible vengeance: he has sued her for \$17.31 in a local small claims court in a complaint that describes her conduct as "a threat to civilised society".

He told the *Austin American-Statesman* newspaper that his effort to recover the price of his cinema ticket followed "a first date from hell". They had gone to see *Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2*, at a multiplex on the outskirts of Austin. Fifteen minutes into the film, he said, she had begun texting. "This is, like, one of my biggest pet peeves," Mr Vezmar said.

He claims that while the *Guardians* were on their tricky quest to discover the parentage and origins of Peter Quill, the Star-Lord, his 35-year-old date "activated her phone at least 10-20 times in 15 minutes to read and send text messages".

He said he had asked her to stop, but

she refused. When he insisted, she left the Barton Creek Square multiplex — and never came back.

This was a problem for Mr Vezmar as she was driving, and he had no other way of getting home.

Mr Vezmar did not possess the super-human powers of Peter Quill, a master of alien firearms, but he does work as a communications consultant, and he was sure that he had justice on his side. After texting her several requests for the \$17.31, he filed a lawsuit.

Soon an eclectic regiment of supporters were massing behind him. One suggested that this should be a class-action.

James Gunn, director of *Guardians of the Galaxy*, weighed in too. "Why stop at suing? She deserves jail time," he wrote on Twitter.

His foe in this battle sought to remain anonymous but told the *Austin American-Statesman* that she had been texting one of her friends who had had a difficult fight with a boyfriend.

She gave a statement to a local television station. "I did have a very brief date with Brandon, that I chose to end prematurely," she said. "He has escalated the situation far past what any mentally healthy person would."

"I feel sorry that I hurt his feelings badly enough that he felt he needed to commit so much time and effort into seeking revenge. I hope one day he can move past this and find peace in his life."

TIMES+

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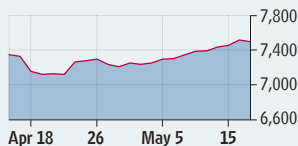
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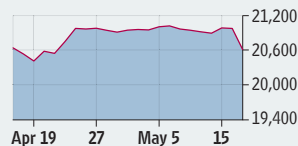
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100
7,503.47 (-18.56) ▼

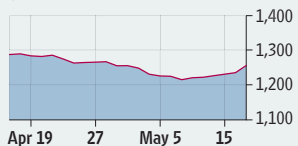


Dow Jones
20,606.93 (-372.82) ▼

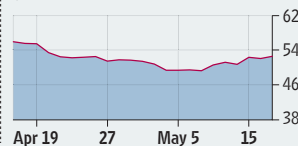


COMMODITIES

Gold
\$1,257.34 (+20.15) ▲

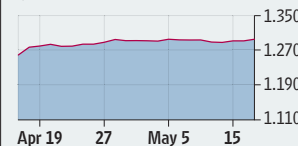


Brent crude (6ppm)
\$52.50 (+0.50) ▲

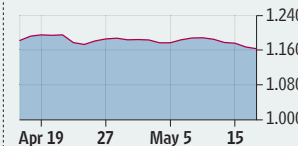


CURRENCIES

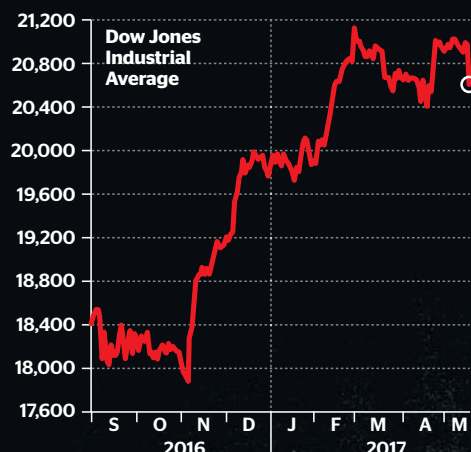
£/\$
\$1.2944 (+0.0032) ▲



£/€
€1.1626 (-0.0038) ▼

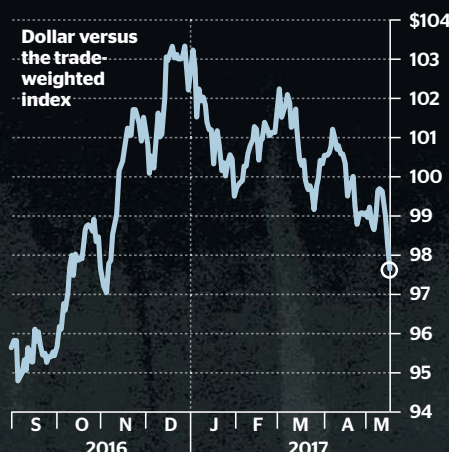


Has the Trump rally run its course?



▲ **13.1%** Rise in Dow Jones since the US election last November

▲ **10.8%** How much the S&P has increased since the election



Top fallers in Dow Jones

Goldman Sachs
JP Morgan Chase
Apple
Du Pont
Microsoft

Source: Thomson Reuters

Wall Street takes fright at Trump's Russia woes

Impeachment speculation shakes investors

James Dean US Business Editor

The dollar fell to a six-month low and Wall Street suffered its worst day in eight months yesterday amid claims that President Trump had tried to obstruct an FBI investigation into suspected ties between the White House and the Kremlin.

The Vix index that indicates volatility in US shares had its biggest jump since the presidential election last November, suggesting that the "Trump rally" is about to go into reverse.

US markets fell after reports emerged of a memo written by James Comey, former director of the FBI, following a meeting with Mr Trump in February, prompting speculation that the president could be impeached.

According to the memo, Mr Trump asked Mr Comey to shut down a federal investigation into Michael Flynn, the

president's former national security adviser, who had lied about the nature of phone conversations he had with the Russian ambassador to Washington.

Jack Welch, former head of General Electric, who has advised the president on business, said yesterday that impeachment proceedings against Mr Trump "would blow the market away".

American markets surged after the election on November 8 amid optimism that Mr Trump would slash taxes, invest \$1 trillion in infrastructure and reduce the burden of financial regulation, particularly on banks.

However, differences between the president and Republicans on health-care reforms and the scale of tax cuts have set back Mr Trump's legislative agenda by months, if not years. Fears about ties between the White House and the Kremlin also have resurfaced.

The Dow Jones industrial average

climbed by 15.6 per cent between the election and March 1, when it closed at a record high of 21,115.55. Since then, the index has lost 1.8 per cent. Last night it closed down by 372.82 points at 20,606.93, erasing about \$75 billion from the value of its component members.

Banks led the fallers on Wall Street, with Goldman Sachs sliding 5.3 per cent to \$213.72. The shares had climbed by 39 per cent between the election and March 1, but they have lost almost 13 per cent since then.

JP Morgan Chase finished the mid-week trading session 3.8 per cent down at \$84.27. Its shares had risen by 34 per cent between the election and March 1, but have lost 6 per cent since.

By early January, the dollar had climbed to a 14-year high against leading currencies. Yesterday it fell by 0.25 per cent to its lowest since Novem-

ber, erasing post-election gains. The broader S&P 500 suffered its biggest one-day fall since September, shedding 1.8 per cent to close at 2,357.03. The technology-heavy Nasdaq, which on Tuesday reached another all-time high, fell 158.63 points to 6,011.24. The volatility index, which measures short-term volatility among shares in the S&P 500, jumped by 23.2 per cent to 13.12.

Yields on benchmark US ten-year treasuries fell by 3.1 per cent to 2.25 per cent as gold gained 1.4 per cent to \$1,254.42.

The FTSE 100 fell 0.3 per cent to close at 7,503.47 as the pound rose to \$1.29, a gain of 0.2 per cent. The Nikkei closed down by 0.5 per cent at 19,814.88.

The market turmoil pushed the chance of a US rate increase in June down to 70 per cent from nearly 88 per cent a week ago.

Market report, page 49

Energy price cap boosted by surge in profit at SSE

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

Profit margins from household energy supply at SSE have risen to their highest level in eight years, helping to boost group profits to £1.5 billion and strengthening calls for a price cap.

Britain's second-biggest energy supplier said that its domestic retail profits had increased by 5 per cent to £261 million, despite it losing 190,000 customer accounts in 2016-17, as lower wholesale costs helped it to make more profit per household.

Margins increased to 6.9 per cent, up from 6.2 per cent the year before and the highest since it started disclosing the figures in 2009-10. The margin is more than five times the 1.25 per cent that the Competition and Markets Authority last year concluded would be fair.

SSE, which raised its standard energy prices by 6.9 per cent last month, also said that it was increasing its dividend for the 18th year running. Underlying profits for the group, which also owns power plants and networks, rose 2.1 per cent to £1.5 billion.

Pre-tax profits, which were heavily affected by one-off items, trebled from £593 million to £1.8 billion as gains on the value of derivatives contracts boosted the 2016-17 result, while 2015-16 results were weighed down by significant writedowns on power plants and other assets.

The Conservatives have proposed a cap on energy suppliers' standard variable tariffs, promising to save families up to £100 a year on their bills. SSE said that a cap would have "unintended consequences" and tried to reassure investors that its dividend could withstand the policy.

However, its disclosure of record profit margins after its recent price increase, which will add £73 a year to a typical annual bill, provoked criticism. Will Hodson, of The Big Deal, a switching website, said: "As long as SSE can keep hitting loyal customers with price rises, they will keep reporting higher profits, no matter how many people leave. The government's proposed price cap will rightly put a stop to that."

Gillian Guy, chief executive of Citizens Advice, said: "SSE's rising profits will be hard to understand for the millions of their loyal customers whose bills have recently gone up."

Alistair Phillips-Davies, SSE chief executive, said it was too early to tell the financial impact of the proposed cap, which would affect 70 per cent of its 6.8 million customer accounts, but that a flat £100 reduction would cut its income by more than £200 million a year.

EDF faces legal challenge, page 40

Business

Need to know

1 Facebook faces a fine for misleading European authorities over its \$22 billion 2014 takeover of the instant message service Whatsapp. The European Commission is expected to end an investigation with the announcement of a fine today. **Page 2**

2 Questions have been raised over John Lewis's "never knowingly undersold" vow after an investigation found that the retailer failed to cut the prices of goods that it knew were being sold cheaper elsewhere. **Page 3**

3 The Liberal Democrats would legalise cannabis to raise a billion pounds in tax and would ban diesel cars, under plans set out in the party's manifesto. The Lib Dems are also promising to put a penny on all bands of income tax. **Page 10**

4 Real wages have fallen for the first time in 30 months despite a drop in unemployment to a level last recorded in 1975. The Office for National Statistics said earnings growth excluding bonuses fell by 0.2 per cent in the three months to March, after accounting for inflation. Unemployment fell to 4.6 per cent in March. **Page 18**

5 The dollar fell to a six-month low and Wall Street hit the skids after claims that President Trump had tried to obstruct an FBI investigation into suspected ties between the White House and the Kremlin. **Page 37**

6 Profit margins from household energy supply at SSE rose to their highest in eight years, helping to boost group profits to £1.5 billion and strengthening calls for a price cap. Britain's second-biggest energy supplier said its domestic retail profits had increased by 5 per cent to £261 million. **Page 37**

7 Britain's new £18 billion nuclear power plant is being funded by illegal French state aid, according to a lawsuit filed by Greenpeace. The environmental group is urging the European Commission to order EDF, which that is building the plant at Hinkley Point in Somerset, to repay the €6.8 billion it got from the French government. **Page 40**

8 The chief executive of Lloyds will start work this summer on a three-year plan for the bank, but has not committed to being there to deliver it. António Horta-Osório insisted that "a job is never done" even as Lloyds announced that it had passed the watershed moment of the government selling its final shares in the bank this week. **Page 42**

9 An uncertain commercial market has forced Britain's second-largest property company to reduce the amount of space it is prepared to develop before it secures tenants. British Land said that it expected market nerves to persist as the terms of Brexit are negotiated. **Page 43**

10 The sudden focus on cybersecurity seems set to pay off for Sophos, which said that it expected sales to hit \$1 billion by 2020, up from \$632 million for 2017. **Page 45**

Is the party over for food

Surging costs are giving pubs and restaurants a tough challenge after years of heady growth, reports **Dominic Walsh**

When Phil Urban says that the rising tide of costs buffeting the pub and restaurant industry is "unprecedented in my career", you know things are bad. The Mitchells & Butlers chief executive has spent more than 30 years in the sector and has been through his fair share of challenging times.

In the 21 months since he took the helm at the Harvester and All Bar One operator, a period of increasingly fragile consumer confidence, he has managed to kickstart a turnaround in its dismal trading record of the past decade, yet his efforts are being undermined by sharp increases in wages, alcohol duty, food, utilities and business rates.

Yesterday, M&B reported a 2.5 per cent increase in revenues in the first half of the year, yet a combination of falling margins and the timing of Easter meant a £12 million fall in operating profits. The company forecast that for the full year its biggest hit would be £21 million increase in wages, while the slump in the pound since the Brexit vote would push up the cost of food and other goods by between £10 million and £12 million. There would also be a £6 million to £7 million increase in utilities, a £5 million impact from business rates and another £2 million to £3 million from alcohol duty.

Yet Mr Urban is in the fortunate position of running a company with the scale and resources to invest £200 million a year in the fabric of its 1,826 restaurants and food-led pubs, a key advantage in a market that has witnessed a surge in new openings in recent years. Although that tide has tailed off, figures from CGA Peach, the industry consultancy, suggest that Britain has 21 per cent more restaurants than it did five years ago.

Sam Fuller, managing director of GCA Altium, an M&A adviser, said that with most of the big restaurant brands having changed hands in recent years, their new private equity owners had

pushed the accelerator on expansion, much of it outside London. "Towns that previously had relied on pubs and a Costa Coffee now find themselves inundated with pizza, Thai, steak and most other cuisines you can think of," he said.

"As a result, through doing nothing intrinsically wrong or indeed different, operators are struggling."

While M&B has tried to hold the line on pricing, some of its rivals have resorted to what Mr Urban described as "aggressive discounting", particularly during quieter parts of the weeks. The Restaurant Group, which has brought in new management after a string of profit warnings, has introduced a range of promotions to rebuild custom at its brands, including Frankie & Benny's, Chiquito and Coast to Coast.

Mark Sheehan, managing director of the advisory group Coffey Corporate Leisure, said that this was a critical time for food operators. "It is crucial that we don't see a widespread spiral of discounting across the sector to destroy margins already under pressure. Operators should focus on quality."

At a recent Propel Finance and Investment Conference, Steve Richards, chief executive of Casual Dining Group, which owns such brands as Café Rouge, Bella Italia and Las Iguanas, predicted that cost increases faced by restaurants would mean a hit on margins of 25 per cent by 2020 and said that his company was trying several initiatives to mitigate them.

They include a trial in eight of its sites where diners order their food via an iPad. "The customers quite like them because they are used to the automated way of doing things," he said. "We have seen spend per head has gone up about 10 per cent with them."

"If you're running a full-service restaurant, you usually have one waiter to 18 tables. This allows you to stretch that to 25. In our business, that's worth millions of pounds."

Luke Johnson, chairman of Patisserie Holdings and one of the sector's most prolific investors, said that although some of the price rises on food ingredients were starting to ease, the "lag effect of rent and rates increases is still feeding through and will be very painful".

He said that, as in past downturns, there would be winners and losers, but added: "The positive is that we are still seeing a structural increase in eating and drinking outside the home."

Glass is half-empty



Household squeeze worst for 3 years

Philip Aldrick Economics Editor

Family budgets are under greater pressure than they have been in three years, causing consumers to cut back on spending, according to two closely watched surveys.

Britons are becoming increasingly pessimistic about their finances because of higher inflation and fears of possible interest rate increases, IHS Markit found in its monthly household finance index.

The Bank of England's agents report said that consumer spending was slowing because of rising inflation.

Households have been the main victims since the fall in sterling after last June's Brexit vote. Inflation is outpacing wage growth for the first time since late 2014, causing people to dip into savings and to take on debt.

The Bank found that "pay awards remained clustered around 2 per cent to 2.5 per cent across the economy", below the present 2.7 per cent inflation rate. However, there are plans for

"modest" jobs growth. The findings come after recent official data, which showed retail sales in the first quarter of the year down by 1.4 per cent, the first fall in four years. Savings rates are also at record lows and consumer confidence has been tailing off.

Tim Moore, of IHS Markit, said: "Households experienced sharply

1.4%

Fall in retail sales in first quarter of the year

rising living costs against a backdrop of subdued pay growth, which contributed to a sustained squeeze on financial wellbeing. Recent pressures on consumer finances have been the sharpest for almost three years. There are also signs that some households have responded by taking on extra borrowing."

The Bank said: "Consumer spending growth had moderated in real terms, as

spending power had been hit by higher prices, following the fall in sterling." It also found that housing market activity had been "muted".

Households are not particularly worried about job security but are concerned about rising living costs, the surveys found.

According to Markit, families suffered "one of the sharpest falls in cash available to spend for two and a half years in May" and that the trend since 2011 of fewer people taking on unsecured debt has reversed this year.

Inflation expectations are at their highest since early 2014 and more than half of households expect an interest rate rise within 12 months.

In August last year, only 28 per cent expected a rate rise within a year. Financial markets don't expect the Bank to move until early 2019, however.

"Looking at the average reading in the three months to May, the decline in household finances was faster than seen at any time since autumn 2014," IHS Markit said.

Investors could lose millions as fund manager goes to the wall

Harry Wilson

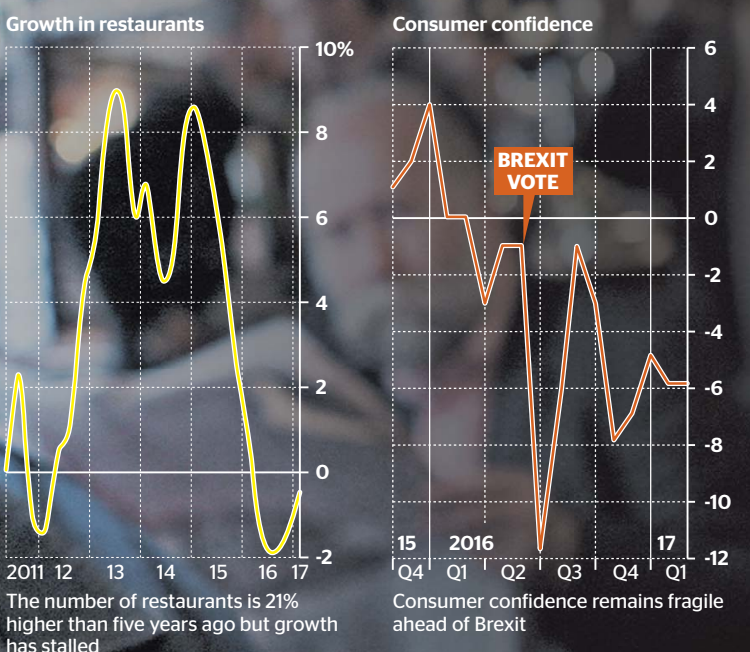
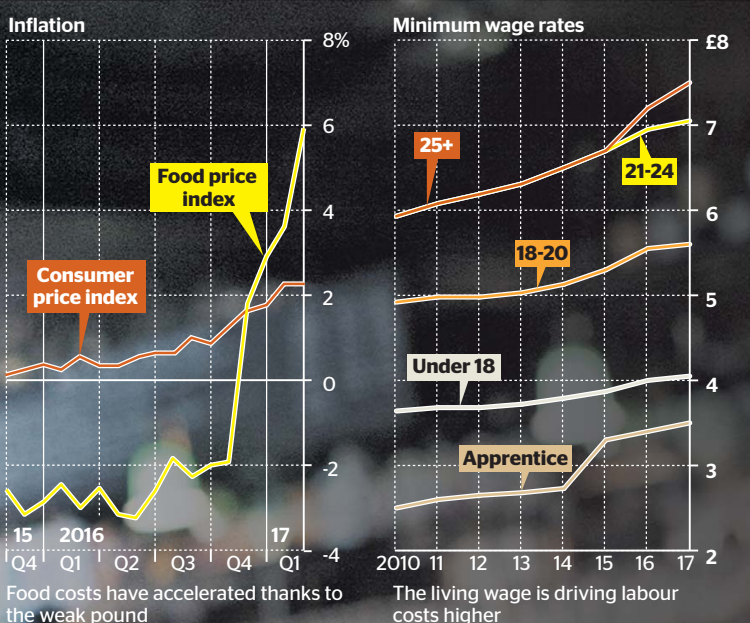
Three thousand investors in a small London-based fund manager are at risk of losing millions of pounds after the firm became the 15th business to be placed into resolution by the City watchdog.

Strand Capital was formally placed into the Financial Conduct Authority's special administration regime yesterday as administrators were brought in to begin the process of shutting down the company.

"Having reached an assessment that it was no longer solvent, Strand made an application to the court to formally initiate insolvency proceedings under SAR," the FCA said in a statement.

According to its latest accounts, the

and drink chains?



Source: CGA Peach, GfK, CPIONS, FPI Prestige Purchasing Ltd

Steak is next big thing on M&B's menu

Dominic Walsh

The number of Harvester and Toby Carvery restaurants is to be pruned as Mitchells & Butlers puts the accent on “premium” concepts, such as its Miller & Carter steakhouse chain.

By the end of this year, the group expects to have 100 Miller & Carter outlets and it believes that they could reach between 160 and 170 over the next couple of years through a mixture of rebrandings and site acquisitions.

Phil Urban, chief executive of M&B, said that as sites were rebranded, so the number of Harvesters and Toby Carveries would fall to as few as 100 sites each. At their peak, there were 235 Harvesters and until recently there were 180 Toby restaurants. While many would become Miller & Carters, he said, others would be converted to a new brand, although Mr Urban insisted that neither name would disappear.

Under Mr Urban, the group's Crown Carveries are being converted to the Stonehouse Pizza & Carvery format, now in 72 sites, while it is testing two other concepts, Son of Steak and Chicken Society.

In the half-year to April 8, M&B suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £83 million to £75 million, from revenues up 2.5 per cent to £1.1 billion. Like-for-like sales rose by 1.6 per cent, rising to 1.9 per cent after 33 weeks, and the interim dividend is flat at 2.5p.

Mr Urban said that the group had “generated sustained sales growth, while consistently outperforming the market”, although the fall in profits on the back of soaring costs and a late Easter sent the shares 17p lower to 258p, down 6.2 per cent.

Nigel Parson, an analyst at Canaccord Genuity, said: “M&B's interims do not quicken the pulse. Results were a tad below our expectations and below last year. Our concern is that the nascent recovery could get blown away by rising headwinds. It is the most food-led of the pub companies, which leaves its pre-tax profits and ambitious capex plans vulnerable to rising costs and competition.”

Black horse seeks a new jockey

BUSINESS COMMENTARY Alistair Osborne



What a day for Lloyds Banking Group's black horse. At last it's got the chancellor off its back. No more riding lessons from Alistair Darling, George Osborne or, lately, Philip Hammond, the three horsemen of the apocalypse — or at least since the financial crisis.

Remember that? How, back in October 2008, the Treasury set about investing £20.3 billion of our money in Lloyds' famous nag, a beast all the friskier for its mating with HBOS. We became lucky owners of a 43 per cent stake. Well, not any more. The taxpayer is finally out, leaving Mr Hammond and Lloyds to crow about a stunning £894 million profit.

True, no chancellor could have let Britain's banking system keel over. But the government's maths doesn't exactly stack up. It excludes the cost of the money — and what else it might have done with it. As Hargreaves Lansdown calculates, had it stuck the cash into a bog-standard FTSE 100 tracker fund and reinvested the dividends, it would now be sitting on £46 billion, more than twice as much. Still, it's a result of sorts, not least compared with its Royal Bank of Scotland wager.

It all raises one question, though: what next for the horse's trainer, António Horta-Osório? Well, anyone would think he fancied being chancellor himself, at least to judge by yesterday's press release (report, page 42). True, there's an election on, but did the Lloyds boss really need his own slogan? His “continued commitment to Help Britain Prosper”, some do-gooder plan. Mr Horta-Osório wants to “address pressing issues such as the housing shortage, lending to SMEs and apprenticeships and skills” — just the sort of thing the chancellor's supposed to do, at least when he's not rowing with Nanny May.

What about Mr Horta-Osório simply committing to running the bank for a few more years? On that he's cagey, merely saying he's “very happy at Lloyds”. And it's true he's done a good job since arriving in March 2011, despite the mess he inherited, not least £17 billion of PPI fines and the HBOS Reading fraud.

He started out with £200 billion of HBOS toxic assets and, on the other side of the balance sheet, a similar amount of net wholesale debt, half of it short-term. He also had to wean Lloyds off £100 billion of special liquidity scheme funding. Sorting that lot with the government aboard was much harder, too: successive chancellors told him they were putting no more money in. Even so, he's produced a clean, profitable bank.

It's put Mr Horta-Osório in the frame for top jobs elsewhere, not least HSBC, always assuming that last year's sojourn in the tabloids hasn't hurt his chances. And decision time looms. Next February, he's due to present a new three-year business plan, the sort of thing that typically triggers board and investor questions over whether he'll be sticking around to deliver it. Now it's got shot of its chancellor jockeys, how long before the black horse has a new trainer, too?

Tears of joy

Talktalk, Sony, Ashley Madison — even the NHS. Everyone gets hacked nowadays. So no surprise to see shares in cyber-security outfit Sophos riding high. WannaCry is publicity you cannot buy: Sophos's new InterceptX anti-ransomware blocked the attack. Sentiment was good, then, even before the full-year results propelled the shares 7 per cent higher to a record 395½p (report, page 45).

It's quite a recent turnaround for an outfit that floated at 225p a share in June 2015 but took a while to persuade investors it really can make money in a \$40 billion cyber-security market growing at 7 per cent a year. This time last year, the shares were still below £2 and even yesterday's figures didn't point to imminent profits: operating losses 36 per cent larger at \$44.3 million.

Yet chief executive Kris Hagerman is starting to win over the doubters. He's not shooting for the crowded top end of the market, where the likes of JP Morgan spend \$700 million a year on IT security. He's after 60 million smaller companies. Analysts are getting a grip on the business model, too: 75 per cent of sales are subscription, averaging out at 28 months, with billings up last year by 18 per cent to \$632 million. Sophos takes the costs upfront, with the cash rolling in over the contract: “unlevered” free cashflow almost tripled to \$133 million, with the dividend up 156 per cent. Even so, the market's still taking plenty on trust. Mr Hagerman has raised 2020 guidance to \$1 billion of billings and at least \$220 million cashflow. He'll need a few more WannaCry's to get there.

One rule for some

Maybe nothing can stop the £18 billion nuclear disaster known as Hinkley Point C, but at least Greenpeace is having a go: filing a state aid complaint over France bunging EDF €6.8 billion, including €3.8 billion of dividends taken as shares (report, page 40). Last time anyone looked, France was still in the EU, though no doubt it'll play by different state aid rules than forced on Brexit Britain over Royal Bank of Scotland.

Still, that wasn't why EDF shares fell 7 per cent. President Macron has appointed green activist Nicolas Hulot as ecology minister, raising fresh questions over France's pro-nuclear energy policy. Not that he probably cares what happens here.

Mystery surrounds

Top survey from the RAC Foundation. All the extra vans on the roads have nothing to do with online shopping: just 4 per cent of the 3.7 million vehicles are involved in that sort of caper, apparently. Director Steve Gooding can explain all: “The question of why there are so many more vans is still a puzzle.” Do write in if you know why.

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fund had managed £86 million of clients' money and the FCA said that Strand had about 3,000 customers, who will have to wait for the administrators to finish their work before getting any money back.

Strand Capital's website said that it offered customers access to more than 9,000 “low-cost, diversified funds” and claimed that it didn't “bet on companies”.

“We avoid the pitfalls of making emotional investment decisions because our algorithms don't make mistakes on accounts of having a bad day,” Strand said in marketing literature posted on its website.

According to recent reports, Strand Capital had been linked to My Workplace Pension, a provider of pension auto-enrolment services. However, at present the company's website displays a banner stating: “My Workplace Pension is no longer accepting new members.”

A link to the My Workplace Pension website advertised a Strand Capital fund called the “Adventurous Model Portfolio”.

Strand Capital was not immediately available to comment.

Lehman Brothers creditors' interest in £5bn court win

Harry Wilson City Editor

Creditors of the European operations of Lehman Brothers have won a £5 billion court victory against the defunct Wall Street bank's administrators.

The administrators have paid £11.5 billion to creditors, which include several big hedge funds, but had asked for a court ruling on what should be done with the interest that had accumulated on the money while the complex web of claims was untangled.

Bondholders of Lehman's junior debt, including Elliott Management and King Street, argued that they were entitled to an additional payout on the more than \$2.2 billion of the bank's paper they owned.

The Supreme Court yesterday backed their argument and said that the creditors should receive an 8 per cent rate of interest, the statutory minimum, on the money that had been owed to them, even though they had already

been repaid in full. PWC, the administrator of Lehman Brothers Europe, has been dealing with creditors' claims since it was appointed to handle the winding up of the business after its parent's bankruptcy filing in September 2008.

The court's judgment was not all good news for creditors, though. The five-strong panel ruled four-to-one against allowing the claimants to pursue currency losses related to transferring their claims from US dollars into pounds.

Nick Gavin-Brown, restructuring partner at Pinsent Masons, said the ruling meant that creditors in future could not expect “a second bite at the cherry where there has been a currency exchange loss between the date of administration and their payment”. He added that “given the unique circumstances of the Lehman Brothers administration, it is not perhaps a judgment that will need to be referred to that often”.



Greenpeace is demanding that EDF, which is building Britain's new nuclear power plant, repay €6.8 billion received from Paris

SUZANNE PLUNKETT/REUTERS

Hinkley Point ‘is being paid for by illegal French aid’

Adam Sage Paris

Britain's new £18 billion nuclear power plant is being funded by illegal French state aid, according to a lawsuit filed by Greenpeace.

The environmental group is urging the European Commission to order EDF, the French state-owned energy giant that is building the plant at Hinkley Point in Somerset, to repay the €6.8 billion it received from the French government.

The lawsuit is also a shot across the bows of Theresa May, who approved plans for Hinkley Point C last autumn, and President Macron of France, who organised the bailout of EDF when he was economy minister. At the time, EDF was struggling with debts of more than €37 billion and a requirement to find more than €50 billion to renovate its French reactors. Critics, including the group's own financial director, said that it could not afford its two-thirds share of the investment in Hinkley Point.

EDF is leading the project to build two new-generation European pressurised reactors in Britain, with China Nuclear General, the Chinese state group, taking a one-third stake in the programme.

Mr Macron eased EDF's burden by approving a €3 billion cash injection and agreeing to take the state's dividend in shares rather than money, which in effect has provided EDF with a further €3.8 billion over the past two years.

Greenpeace claims that the deal amounts to unfair state aid. "Instead of acting like a smart investor, the state is providing unconditional support to EDF and its nuclear projects that threaten the health of the company, notably Hinkley Point. There is no

economic logic," Laura Monnier, of Greenpeace France, said. "Greenpeace's lawsuit aims to show that EDF's capital increase is incompatible with European competition law."

The environmental organisation said that EDF had been wrong to invest in Hinkley Point "when it does not have the funds to invest in the maintenance and safety of its French nuclear fleet".

Greenpeace's lawsuit is unlikely to halt the Hinkley Point project, but it adds to the controversy over the scheme on both sides of the Channel.

Shares in EDF slumped yesterday after the appointment of Nicolas Hulot, 62, France's best known environmental campaigner, as minister of ecology and solidarity in Mr Macron's government. Investors fear that Mr Hulot will press EDF to reduce its dependence on nuclear power and to pump funds into the development of renewable energy.

The shares fell by 6.57 per cent to €8.85. The significance is limited, however, because more than 85 per cent of the group's capital is owned by the state.

Mr Hulot is a militant French version of David Attenborough, famed for his environmental documentaries on television but also for his hardline stance on green issues. He is expected to press Mr Macron to implement a campaign pledge to cut the proportion of French electricity produced by nuclear power from 75 per cent to 50 per cent, resulting in the closure of many of France's 58 reactors.

Edouard Philippe, 46, the prime minister, may act as a counterweight. He is a former executive of Areva, the other French state-owned nuclear group, and is a proponent of such energy.

EDF declined to comment on the Greenpeace lawsuit yesterday.

Electric cars will not dent global oil demand, says BP

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

Electric vehicles will spur demand for gas for use in power plants, BP has claimed, as it tried to shrug off concerns over their impact on its oil business.

The energy giant faced questions over the threat it faced from the electrification of transport at its annual general meeting yesterday, where it avoided a repeat of last year's pay revolt.

More than 97 per cent of shareholders backed both its 2016 pay report, which cut chief executive Bob Dudley's remuneration 40 per cent to \$11.6 million, and an overhauled pay policy.

Shareholders expressed concern over the risk electric vehicles could pose to its business, following predictions from economists at Stanford that the sale of petrol vehicles would cease as soon as 2025.

Mr Dudley said that the company forecast a 100-fold increase in electric vehicles on the road by 2035 but that even if they grew several times faster than that, it would only reduce global oil

demand by a few million barrels per day.

Conventional cars would still account for the vast bulk of the global car fleet, which was likely to rise to some two billion vehicles, he said.

Mr Dudley also suggested that BP could actually benefit from the growth in electric vehicles as it moved its portfolio increasingly towards the production of cleaner-burning gas.

"Where the electricity is generated today mostly in the world is from coal. As a company we believe that natural gas is going to be a huge part of the equation for generating electricity for electric vehicles," he said.

BP had a "very resilient portfolio" and could adjust to changes in the energy market if its forecasts were wrong, he added.

Last year an unprecedented 59 per cent of shareholders rejected Mr Dudley's pay package.

The company said the new policy this year reduced the amount that its executives could earn while introducing more challenging targets to achieve bonuses in future years.



BP forecast a 100-fold rise in electric cars by 2035

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Price shown per month	Price shown per month plus annual RPI adjustment = Price A	Price A per month plus annual RPI adjustment
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Simon Nixon

Only the nuts and bolts of trade and banking union will fix the eurozone



“Emmanuel Macron has put eurozone integration firmly on the political agenda. The new French president may have stopped short of repeating his campaign calls to set up a common budget and treasury for the bloc when he met Angela Merkel in Berlin on his first full day in the job, but the two leaders did agree that action is needed to strengthen the eurozone — and that this could even involve changing the EU treaties.

The challenge now for eurozone governments is to agree what exactly has gone wrong and what they should do about it.

The biggest problem with the euro is that it hasn't delivered the economic convergence that voters expected when it was launched. In fact, it has led to divergence. In 1999, living standards in Germany, France and Italy measured by gross domestic product per capita were broadly the same. Today Germany is significantly richer than France, while Italy has seen its GDP per capita slump from 119 per cent of the EU average in 1999 to below 90 per cent today. Spain may have just about maintained its living standards relative to Germany since 1999, but those in Portugal and Greece have fallen, Simon Tilford, of the Centre for European Reform, noted in a recent report.

Flaws in the construction of the eurozone are clearly to blame for much of this divergence. The single currency was supposed to make it easier for countries to finance themselves by removing the risks associated with volatile exchange rates and illiquid bond markets. At first, this worked as intended, the launch of the euro triggering large flows of capital into peripheral countries as interest rates converged with those of Germany. But when the global financial crisis struck, it turned out that euro membership offered little protection against sudden stops in funding, after all: in the absence of a lender of last resort, many economies struggled to refinance the excessive debts they had accumulated in the boom, leading to a credit crunch and deep recessions.

Still, these defects were addressed by the creation of the European Stability Mechanism, the region's bailout fund, and by the launch of the

European Central Bank's quantitative easing programme in 2015. This gave the eurozone its lender of last resort and drove down borrowing costs in crisis countries, paving the way for what is becoming an increasingly robust recovery. That said, fixing this problem has still not been sufficient to drive renewed economic convergence. Although some former crisis countries, notably Spain and Ireland, have been enjoying strong growth and falling unemployment for several years, growth in Portugal and Italy remains weak, while Greece's recovery appears to have stalled amid new tensions over its bailout.

Such disparities are a reminder that not all the problems in the region can be blamed on flaws in the single currency. What has determined the pace of recovery has been the speed with which countries have been able to reallocate resources — both human and financial — to more productive uses.

Spain and Ireland got out quickly from the crisis because, unlike Italy and Portugal, they took decisive action to clean up their banking systems, allowing credit to flow again to viable firms. Spain also overhauled its labour market, which has led to a much faster pace of job creation than less-flexible France. In much of southern Europe, inefficient judicial systems and weak insolvency regimes frustrate efforts to tackle bad debts



President Macron and Angela Merkel are aiming to strengthen the currency

and deter new investment. This is the context in which proposals to deepen eurozone integration should be judged. Sure, the creation of a budget for the common currency countries could help to soften the impact of future shocks by helping to relieve pressure on domestic budgets, creating the fiscal space for other adjustments needed to help economies rebalance, but it provides no guarantee that member states will make those adjustments. Indeed, the availability of fiscal transfers could create new moral hazards, reducing the incentive to make reforms that might improve long-term economic convergence. After all, Italy has been a currency union underpinned by generous transfers for more than 150 years, yet this hasn't prevented the ever-growing divergence between its north and south.

Besides, it is doubtful whether the eurozone could create a common fiscal capacity with the firepower to play more than a modest stabilising role in a crisis. Member states may be reluctant to increase contributions to the EU when they already face having to make up the shortfall arising from Britain's departure. Nor is it clear whether they will be willing to accept the degree of transfers of sovereignty over sensitive areas such as the labour market and welfare policies needed to underpin targeted initiatives such as proposals for a common unemployment insurance fund.

In any case, the importance of a common budget shouldn't be overestimated. Studies show that even in the US, transfers from the federal budget help to cushion only 13 per cent of the impact of regional shocks to output; it is private capital markets — equities and credit — that absorb two thirds of such shocks. Policies designed to boost cross-border investment flows — including extending the single market, completing its banking union and deepening its capital markets union — may not match Mr Macron's ambition for eye-catching political theatre, but it is on such unglamorous work that the fate of the eurozone ultimately hinges.

Simon Nixon is the chief European commentator at *The Wall Street Journal*. Twitter: @Simon_Nixon

Robin Pagnamenta

Big Tech could be in for a big fall if it does not wake up to its problems

Ever since software developers started gravitating towards the sun-baked plains around Palo Alto and San Jose in the 1960s and 1970s, it is hard to think of another industry that has been as venerated as that of Silicon Valley.

For decades America's technology sector has enjoyed a special place in public opinion. Widely celebrated as a triumph of innovation and entrepreneurship, its pioneers have revolutionised the way we live and work and many have become fabulously wealthy as a result. Even today, long after the likes of Messrs Jobs and Brin moved their businesses out of the garage and entered the corporate mainstream, Silicon Valley retains a high level of public trust. Research by Edelman

suffering the fate of other industries that failed to tackle growing public mistrust.

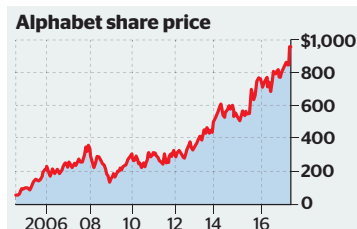
First it was Big Tobacco, whose reputation was shredded as it fought to silence research linking the industry to cancer in the 1960s. The pharmaceuticals industry suffered a similar fate in the late 1990s and 2000s over its manipulation of regulators to approve dangerous blockbuster drugs such as Vioxx to fatten profits. Once viewed as an industry of the future, motivated by the advancement of science to beat disease, Big Pharma now struggles to shake off a venal reputation. Most recently it has been bankers, and especially the Big Banks, who have been the focus of public anger over their role triggering the 2008 financial crisis.

Is Big Tech next? Swelling profits and valuations stretching into the hundreds of billions of dollars, plus a repeated refusal to accept responsibility for a slew of issues, suggest that the case against it is starting to add up. The image of cool California hippiedom is being supplanted by a more traditional corporate stereotype, that of the greedy business executive fighting a desperate rearguard action to protect profits and shield shareholders from tighter regulation.

That is a shame. As Tommy Staden argues in the book *Connect: How Companies Succeed by Engaging Radically with Society*, advances developed by companies such as Apple, Facebook and Google have had a tremendously positive impact on the world we live in. We need these companies to keep innovating and investing billions in new technology that can enhance our lives and help to tackle big social problems. Yet if the industry fails to shoulder its responsibilities and to offer real solutions to some of these concerns, then it risks losing its social licence to operate or, worse, ushering in a world of increasing government regulation of the internet.

That would be a tragedy for Silicon Valley and an outcome that few people would really want.

Robin Pagnamenta is Deputy Business Editor of *The Times*



suggests that nearly 80 per cent of people trust technology companies, compared with only 54 per cent for banks.

But Big Tech needs to watch its back. The industry is attracting public scrutiny and anger as never before. Moreover, the list of pressure points seems only to be growing: scandals over tax avoidance at Apple and Google; the uninspired efforts of internet giants such as Youtube to police paedophile and extremist content on their platforms; allegations that social media sites including Facebook have been used to manipulate voters in elections in the United States and Britain; concerns about intrusions into privacy; and the threat posed by artificial intelligence and robots to jobs — to name but a few.

For an industry whose algorithms are capable of crunching vast numbers in a few milliseconds, Big Tech seems to be remarkably sluggish in its response to all this, and that could present a problem. If it fails to speed up, it risks



Sathnam Sanghera sees things from a different angle



Born and raised in Wolverhampton, award-winning author and columnist Sathnam Sanghera has worked at a burger chain, a hospital laundry, a sewing factory and as the News Bunny. His has been no ordinary career, and he is no ordinary journalist.

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Business

Lloyds chief leaves future up in the air

Katherine Griffiths Banking Editor

The chief executive of Lloyds will start work this summer on a new three-year plan for the bank, but has not committed to being there to deliver it.

António Horta-Osório insisted that “a job is never done” even as Lloyds announced that it had passed the watershed moment of the government selling its final shares in the bank this week, at a profit of almost £900million on the £20.3billion ploughed into the lender to save it from collapse almost a decade ago.

It is the first time that Lloyds has been completely privately owned since before the financial crisis, when the government took a 43 per cent stake.

Mr Horta-Osório has been paid £38million mostly in shares since he joined Lloyds in March 2011, including £3.35million in bonuses over the next few years as a result of the government's exit. He has not sold any of his shares.

To dampen speculation that he would think about leaving Lloyds after six years at the helm, Mr Horta-Osório said that on his to-do list were integrating the MBNA credit card business that Lloyds has just bought and pushing digitisation to improve service and systems. He said he would start work on his third strategic plan for Lloyds this summer and it would be presented to the market in February.

Yet he would not say whether he

would be the one to deliver it. There is intense speculation inside Lloyds and in the City that Mr Horta-Osório may be keen to consider other bank jobs, with the soon-to-be-vacant role at HSBC seen as a possible alternative. Lloyds has made a contingency plan that if its chief quits suddenly, George Culmer, its finance director, will step in to the top job.

The bank has focused on lending to individuals and businesses in the UK, rather than doing overseas business or risking investment banking. That has been supported by both the government and Lloyds' shareholders.

Yesterday they hailed the bank's success. Richard Buxton, chief executive of Old Mutual Global Investors, said that Mr Horta-Osório had done a “fantastic job ... His determination of strategy and ability to stick to it has been very effective”.

The City welcomed the government's sale of its final shares as likely to lead to a bounce in the share price now that there is not a regular seller in the market and with the prospect of substantial dividend growth. Steve Davies, manager of the Jupiter UK Growth fund, said that “a total dividend of 5p or more looks very possible now”.

The sell-off of Lloyds puts a new focus on Royal Bank of Scotland, which is still 72 per cent government-owned after its £45.5 billion bailout.

Lloyds shares rose 1½p to close at 71½p last night.

CITY PEOPLE

The feuds, the faces and the farcical
Harry Wilson

Business big shot

NAME PATRICE LOUVET
AGE 52
POSITION PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE, RALPH LAUREN



Patrice Louvet was said by some to be next in line to take charge at Procter & Gamble, but in fact the French-born executive is heading for Ralph Lauren (Will Humphries writes) The global beauty president at P&G has been picked out by Ralph Lauren, the eponymous company's founder and creative head, to revitalise its fortunes. In July he will replace Stefan Larsson, who left in February after less than two years in the top job.

Mr Louvet, a 28-year veteran of P&G, has a challenge on his hands. Ralph Lauren reported a 5 per cent fall in comparable store sales in its third quarter, compared with the same period the year before. Profits slid to \$82million from \$131million as revenue fell 12 per cent to \$1.7billion. The company is due to report fourth-quarter and full-year results today.

BLUE IS THE COLOUR, POLITICS IS THE GAME IN ... WEST HAM

Like father, like son. Michael Patrick Spencer, son of Michael Spencer, founder of interdealer broker Icap, is running for parliament as the Tory candidate for West Ham. As such, Spencer Jr, known as Patrick, stepped down as a director of IPGL, Spencer Sr's private investment vehicle. Spencer père is a former Conservative party treasurer with an £800million fortune, quite a war chest to back his son's political ambitions, which, according to the West Ham Conservatives' website, he has been nursing since he was a teenager. Mind you, the 29-year-old will need a hefty swing if he is to overturn the majority of Lyn Brown, the shadow minister for policing.

POINTING THE FINGER

After months of talks with shareholders, BP might have been looking forward to unveiling resounding backing for its overhauled policy at its annual meeting. But things did not go quite as planned. The figures that flashed on the big screen at London ExCel's Centre announced that 11 per cent had voted against its new



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British Land has sold its 50 per cent stake in London's Leadenhall Building, right, prompting suggestions that it fears "stormy weather ahead" in the commercial market

Brexit jitters force British Land to cut speculative development

Tom Knowles Property Correspondent

An uncertain commercial market has forced Britain's second-largest property company to reduce the amount of space it is prepared to develop before it secures tenants.

British Land, whose £13.9 billion portfolio of office and retail properties includes the Meadowhall shopping centre in Sheffield and developments in Paddington, west London, said that it expected market nerves to persist as the terms of Brexit are negotiated.

It said that this had led to it cutting the amount of space that it would speculatively develop to 4 per cent, from 5 per cent only six months ago.

Questions about the economic impact of Britain quitting the European Union and whether financial companies will keep their passporting rights to sell services across the bloc have meant that big businesses are taking longer to decide whether they want to

sign contracts for new office space in London.

Chris Grigg, chief executive of British Land, said: "Uncertainty will continue. I don't think that is going to end any time soon. It is going to be a function of doing business in the UK."

He added that this "changes the parameters" for its development plans. "We would be less likely to do speculative development than you might have expected from us two to three years ago," he said.

British Land sold £1.5 billion of property in the 12 months to the end of March, including its 50 per cent stake in the Leadenhall Building in central London, known as the Cheese Grater. The sale to CC Land, of China, made British Land and its joint owner Oxford Properties £1.15 billion collectively. The deal is expected to be completed next week.

Nicholas Hyett, an equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, said that the

sale of large assets and the revision of speculative developments suggested that British Land was "clearly uncomfortable about the future". The sales suggested that the company "feels there could be stormy weather ahead".

However, the value of British Land's portfolio has recovered since dropping sharply last year, suggesting valuers

INSIDE TODAY

Buy: looks well placed and 4.6% yield is worth having
Tempus, page 48

believe that the demand for buying commercial property is on the rise again since the Brexit vote last June.

The company said that its net asset value per share, the preferred measure of performance used by property companies, has fallen by 0.4 per cent to 915p in the past year, a much smaller fall

than the 6 per cent drop that some City analysts had been expecting.

Underlying profits rose by 7.4 per cent to £390 million in the year to the end of March, although pre-tax profits dropped by 85 per cent to £195 million owing to asset values moderating from a large rise the previous year.

Mr Grigg said that the group had begun to see "the first signs of a slowdown in footfall" at its shopping centres, though retailers continued to take space on "good terms".

He added that the increased popularity of click-and-collect offers may mean that the company will develop "last-mile delivery" distribution hubs — small parcel delivery centres on the edge of towns and cities that act as a go-between for retailers' large warehouses and people's homes.

British Land will pay a final quarterly dividend of 3p a share, bringing the full-year payout for investors to 29.2p, up 3 per cent from last year.

Revenue falls by quarter as slowdown hits Foxtons

Tom Knowles

London's housing market shows no sign of recovering or of easing the pressure on Foxtons, which has reported a 25 per cent fall in revenue in the first quarter of the year.

The upmarket estate agency has been struggling against declining demand in the capital, especially in central London, as Brexit uncertainty, higher stamp duty costs and government incentives to crack down on buy-to-let investors have led to fewer homes changing hands.

Foxtons also suffered a revolt by shareholders at its annual general meeting over the directors' remuneration report with almost 28 per cent voting against it. Nearly 30 per cent of investors also voted against the reappointment of Andrew Adcock as a director. The company said it noted the "significant minority" votes, adding it was committed to discussions with shareholders.

The group said that revenue had dropped to £28.7 million in the first three months of the year to the end of March, compared with £38.4 million in the same period last year. Revenue from commissions on property sales almost halved from £20 million in the same period last year to £11.1 million.

Shares in the company, whose dark green Minis are a familiar sight around the capital, fell 3½p to 102½p after the trading update, well below their floatation price in 2013 of 230p.

Though part of the revenue slide is because a particularly strong first quarter in 2016, Foxtons has been suffering from higher stamp duty costs for homes above £937,000 since the end of 2014, as well as uncertainty around the economic impact of the Brexit vote, both of which have hit demand in the capital's most expensive boroughs.

Revenues at Foxton's letting division remained stable at £15.5 million in the first quarter, down only £300,000 compared with the same period last year, but this is likely to be affected by government moves to bring down the cost of renting.

Landlords rein in purchases

Buy-to-let lending for house purchases fell by nearly 80 per cent in March compared with the same time last year, figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show (Tom Knowles writes).

Landlords borrowed a total of £900 million for house purchases in March, a 79.5 per cent decrease compared with March last year, when £4.4 billion of loans were made as landlords rushed to buy new homes to beat a 3 per cent stamp duty surcharge on second homes that came into effect in April 2016.

Paul Smee, director-general of the CML, said: "Overall, lending trends have remained reasonably consistent."

The council said that first-time buyer and home mover activity had come out of a "winter seasonal dip" in March. First-time buyers borrowed £4.9 billion in March, up 29 per cent on February and a rise of 9 per cent compared with March last year. Home movers borrowed £6.2 billion, up 19 per cent on February but down 33 per cent year-on-year.

Countryside seeks sweet spot after £1m sales fall

Tom Knowles

The slowdown in demand for homes at the upper end of the housing market has caused Countryside Properties to halve the number it plans to sell for more than £1 million.

The FTSE 250 developer, which is equally divided between building private homes for sale and offering affordable homes in partnership with local authorities, said that it had "repositioned" its business to make sure that its homes remain affordable. Its average

selling price for private homes fell 13 per cent to £441,000 in the six months to the end of March, from £505,000 during the same period a year earlier.

Ian Sutcliffe, chief executive, said this was due to it selling fewer homes through its premium housebuilding division, called Millgate, dropping to 32 homes from 49 during the same period last year. The division will sell about 50 homes for £1 million or more compared with more than 100 last year, he said.

The company sells almost exclusively to local owner-occupiers rather than



Fewer luxury developments are being sold because of the rise in stamp duty

international buyers or buy-to-let investors and Mr Sutcliffe said this has meant it needed to make sure it stays in the "£400,000 to £600,000 sweet spot". He added: "We have to face facts that the market above £1 million has cooled."

A change to stamp-duty rates at the end of 2014 bumped up transactions costs for homes above £937,500.

Countryside reported a 39 per cent rise in adjusted operating profits to £70.4 million in its half-year results, up from £50.8 million a year ago. Home completions rose by 31 per cent to 1,437.

Business

Spectris chooses tobacco executive as chairman

Spectris, the instrumentation and controls provider to manufacturers, has named Mark Williamson as its non-executive chairman. He will take over from John Hughes, who is retiring, on May 26 after the company's annual meeting has concluded. Mr Williamson, who is also chairman of the audit committee of National Grid, will join Spectris from Imperial Brands, the tobacco company. In a trading update for the period January 1 to April 30, the company said that sales had risen by 22 per cent. Its shares fell 173p to close more than 6 per cent down at £25.63.

Assets boost lifts profits at Brewin Dolphin

Brewin Dolphin's first-half profits rose by 32 per cent to £28.4million as its assets under management rose by 6.8 per cent year-on-year over the period to £37.8billion. The wealth manager said that its assets had been boosted by a 9.8 per cent rise in discretionary funds for the six months to the end of March, with the firm benefiting from a record net inflow for the period. Total income for the half rose by £10million year-on-year to £147million.

Tempus, page 48



SIMON DAWSON/BLOOMBERG/GETTY

Unions hit brakes on plans for strikes at BMW plants

Planned strikes at BMW's British plants have been suspended while workers consider a new offer from the German carmaker regarding their pension provisions. Last month, Unite said that it would hold a total of eight strikes at four sites after 93 per cent of

employees backed industrial action in protest at plans to close the group's final-salary pension schemes. The union is not recommending the deal to workers at the Oxford, Goodwood, Hams Hall and Swindon plants. BMW said that the offer was "fair".

Lib Dem corporation tax cut 'would harm competition'

Business groups have argued that the Liberal Democrats' manifesto pledge to raise corporation tax would hit competitiveness at the worst moment. While the party won plaudits for a "clear focus" on innovation, it was criticised by the CBI and the EEF, the manufacturers' body, for plans to raise the tax from 17 per cent to 20 per cent.

Carolyn Fairbairn, director-general of the CBI, said: "As we chart a new course in our relationship with Europe, it's all the more important that the United Kingdom remains a highly attractive country in which to invest and create jobs. Reversing cuts to corporation tax and not getting

behind Heathrow's expansion will limit the country's ability to remain internationally competitive."

The SMMT, which represents the motor industry, criticised a proposed ban on the sale of diesel cars and small vans by 2025. Mike Hawes, its chief executive, said: "With the UK being a major producer of diesel vehicles and engines, it is essential for growth and jobs that we encourage these newer, low-emission vehicles."

The British Retail Consortium welcomed a promise to equip the business rates system for the digital age, but warned against a proposal to favour small businesses.

British factories escape latest redundancies at Ford

Ford confirmed yesterday that it had no plans to make further job cuts in Britain as it announced that 1,400 positions would be made redundant in North America and Asia as part of a \$3billion cost-cutting drive.

"Since Ford of Europe and South America already have completed people actions or have them under way, these regions will not be included [in the new round of job cuts]," Ford said.

Ford announced in March that it would halt production at the Ford diesel engine plant in Bridgend, which

is likely to lead to 1,100 job losses. The carmaker said yesterday that it would complete its redundancies in North America and Asia by the end of September.

It said: "We remain focused on the three strategic priorities that will create value and drive profitable growth, which include fortifying the profit pillars in our core business, transforming traditionally underperforming areas of our core business and investing aggressively, but prudently, in emerging opportunities."

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Sophos is crying all the way to the bank

Alexandra Freaan

The sudden focus on cybersecurity seems set to pay off for Sophos, which said yesterday that it expected sales to hit \$1 billion by 2020, up from \$632 million for 2017.

Shares in the company, which have been among the greatest beneficiaries of the global WannaCry ransomware attack, rose 25½p, almost 7 per cent, to 395½p. They closed on Friday at 341¼p.

Kris Hagerman, chief executive, said that the latest cyberattack, which hit the NHS and organisations in more than 150 countries, had provided another wake-up call about the importance of IT security. "Everyone needs to

double down to get the basics right," he said, adding that the company had received a flood of inquiries about its products and services in the past week.

Six months ago the London-based Sophos launched InterceptX, a new product designed to protect against ransomware threats. "It's been one of the fastest-growing products in our history," Mr Hagerman said. "In the space of two quarters, we have 8,000 customers."

In addition to being a supplier of security systems to the NHS, Sophos specialises in small and medium-sized companies worldwide, which often lack in-house cybersecurity expertise.

"This is a \$40 billion market growing

at 7 per cent a year. Practically every other major security vendor focuses on the global top 2,000 companies; we are focused on the other 60 million. They face the same threats as the big banks and manufacturers, but have nowhere near the same enterprise grade security," Mr Hagerman said.

He was speaking as Sophos reported a 10.8 per cent rise in revenues to \$529.7 million for the year that ended on March 31, issued strong mid-term guidance for the first time and said that it planned to double shareholder payouts this year.

Nick Bray, finance director, said that because Sophos operated a subscription model, it did not receive the total

payment at the time of sale, so profits took a while to "catch up" with revenue growth. The increased costs associated with acquiring new customers resulted in a widening of the company's loss to \$44.3 million from \$32.7 million the

\$632 million, while free cashflow almost tripled to \$133.4 million. Sophos is expecting operating profits to hit \$100 million by 2020. "We are building a very sustainable business," Mr Bray said.

The company is recommending a 200 per cent increase in the total dividend for the year to 4.6 cents.

Martin O'Sullivan, an analyst at Cenkos who has a "buy" rating on the shares, said that given the recent cyber-attack, a parliamentary report in highlighting the need for a national cyber-security strategy and European data protection legislation from 2018, "the newsflow is all in the right direction for Sophos".

60m

Target market among small companies

previous year. The adjusted operating profit was \$38.3 million, down from \$53.4 million a year earlier.

However, Mr Bray noted that billings for the year had risen by 18.2 per cent to

Ikea bolts on 1,300 jobs with new stores

There may have been a period when, like someone trying to assemble a flat-pack cupboard, Ikea's growth in Britain stalled as it puzzled over its best-laid plans, but yesterday it confirmed that it was confidently back in the business of getting bigger (Deirdre Hipwell writes).

The Swedish retailer famed for its build-at-home furniture and in-store restaurant meatballs, said that it was set to create 1,300 jobs in Britain.

Having opened a store in Reading last year, it began construction on a store in Exeter yesterday, which, with new outlets in Sheffield and Greenwich, southeast London, will take its portfolio in the UK to 22

by the end of 2018. It is a growth spurt that has already lifted UK sales from £1.23 billion in 2012 to more than £1.7 billion last year.

Gillian Drakeford, the country manager for the UK and Ireland, said that 350 jobs would be created at its Exeter store alone. She added that Ikea would employ more than 11,000

people by the end of 2018.

The company's expansion comes after a hiatus after the recession, during which it did not

develop a single store in the UK for seven years. Ms Drakeford told *The Times* in February that Ikea had opted to curtail its development during this period so that it could focus on investing in its staff, its existing estate and on



Ikea in the UK

1987
Ikea enters UK market



£1.72bn
Sales, 2016



300-350
Average number of staff per store

Stores
Now

19

By the end of 2018 when stores in Sheffield, Exeter and Greenwich open

22

8.9% ↑
Rise in sales last year

18.8%
Rise in mattress sales, the fastest growing category last year

Staff
Now

10,400

By the end of 2018

11,700

Source: Ikea; Times Research

improving the customer experience. This was particularly important in a period in which

complaints about long checkout queues at Ikea stores and a lack of staff had started to affect the

retailer's sales. "We had to ask ourselves [a few years ago], 'Do we have the right to expand?'"

She said that answering that question had come down to the single issue of the "performance of

comparable units", or like-for-like sales.

"You have to be able to demonstrate that you are growing in comparable stores, that you are driving both top-line and bottom-line growth and driving the customer and the people indicators," Ms Drakeford said. "If we can't do that, then we don't have the resources to grow."

However, Ikea UK, which has been led by Ms Drakeford since 2013, is conspicuously back in a growth phase, with job roles being created in its new outlets and in areas including store management, food and beverages, customer relations, sales, interior design, IT, sustainability and marketing. There are also new roles at its call centres.

Ikea pays the "real" living wage, meaning that staff receive an hourly rate of £8.45 outside of London and £9.75 an hour inside the capital, as well as a benefits package that includes an annual bonus.

Co-op explores convenient option

Deirdre Hipwell Retail Editor

The Co-op is to test convenience stores at roadside service stations as it considers whether to use a franchising model to expand its convenience grocery business.

Launching its own franchised business operation for the first time in its 170 years, Britain's largest mutual grocery retailer said that it had signed an agreement with MRH, an independent service station operator, to open seven Co-op convenience stores.

The first will open this month in Eastcote, northwest London. There will be four more in the London area and two in Cambridgeshire.

MRH is Britain's biggest independent petrol retailer, boasting more than 450 company-owned sites branded Esso, BP or Torq. It already has Hursts-branded convenience stores on some sites, as well as partnerships with retailers such as Subway, Costa Express and Spar.

The Co-op's franchise partnership



The retailing mutual is entering its first franchising model in 170 years

with MRH comes after it agreed a tie-up with McColl's to provide own-brand products at 25 Co-op stores.

Wm Morrison similarly has a partnership with Rontec and is planning

to open 50 branded convenience stores on the forecourt operators' sites. Morrisons previously had an initial agreement with Motor Fuel Group, another forecourt operator.

Jo Whitfield, chief executive, food, at the Co-op, said that using a franchise model could help the group to expand further in the fast-growing convenience sector. "This will enable us to test the franchise model and potentially pave the way for further expansion to move the Co-op brand and our own-brand food into new communities," she said.

A move into franchising is the latest initiative from the once-ailing Co-op, which in December unveiled plans to open 100 stores in a £70 million expansion programme. The Manchester-based retailer said that the launch of programmes such as its 5&1 scheme, where Co-op members receive a 5 per cent reward on purchase of Co-op own-brand products and services, with a further 1 per cent going to local causes, had been "incredibly popular".

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Amity International ÷	263.00	...	-1.20	1.26
Amity Sterling Bond A ÷	107.40	...	+0.20	4.89
Amity UK A Inc ÷	238.60	...	+0.30	...
Higher Income A ÷	137.80	...	-0.10	4.28
UK Equity Growth A ÷	272.80	...	+0.70	...

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICs)				
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083				
Share Class 1 - Retail				
Corporate Btd ÷@	59.47	...	+0.15	...
Emerging Mkts ÷@	118.00	...	-0.80	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ÷@	969.40	...	-5.60	...
Extra Inc Bond ÷@	49.13	...	+0.05	...
FTSE All-Shr Track ÷@	420.60	...	+1.40	...
Global Gwth SC1 ÷@	185.70	...	-1.20	...
High Inc Trst ÷@	14.70	15.46	+0.01	...
Max Inc Bond ÷@	49.00	...	+0.02	3.92
Multi Man Caut ÷@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ÷@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ÷@	471.60	...	-4.10	...
Pacific Gwth ÷@	412.00	...	-2.70	0.56
Strategic Btd ÷@	197.90	...	+0.40	0.72
UK Equity ÷@	3348.00	...	+10.00	...
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ÷@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ÷@	234.70	...	...	3.34
UK Smaller Cos ÷@	896.90	...	+3.20	0.26

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL				
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Digs 0800 414181				
Amer Spec Sits ÷@	1532.00	...	+11.00	0.01
Amer Spec ÷@	3599.00	...	-30.00	...
Euro Opps ÷@	500.90	...	-1.70	0.28
European ÷@	2163.00	...	-8.00	...
Extra Income ÷@	28.00	...	+0.05	...
Glob Spec Sits ÷@	3586.00	...	-20.00	...
Global Focus ÷@	1810.00	...	-9.00	...
International ÷@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ÷@	343.50	...	+0.90	...
Moneybldr Bal ÷@	53.68	...	+0.14	3.78
Moneybldr Glob ÷@	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Moneybldr Gwth ÷@	81.84	...	+0.35	...
Moneybldr Inc ÷@	37.46	...	+0.11	...
Moneybldr UK Ind ÷@	104.75	...	+0.33	...
Special Sits ÷@	3853.00	...	+10.00	0.93
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD				
01296 386 386				
Authorised Inv Funds				
Share Class - C				
Corporate Bond ÷@	35.54	...	+0.30	...
Ethical ÷@	76.84	...	-0.45	...
European ÷@	85.45	...	-0.40	1.95
Far Eastern ÷@	94.61	...	-0.77	2.08
Fund of Inv Tst ÷@	107.00	...	-0.20	0.38
Intl Gwth ÷@	81.77	...	-0.48	1.50
Japanese ÷@	57.41	...	-0.20	1.43
North Amer ÷@	81.74	...	-0.60	1.07
Smaller Cos ÷@	104.60	...	+1.60	1.16
Special Sits ÷@	48.57	...	+0.26	1.66
UK Equity Inc ÷@	84.64	...	-0.11	...
UK FTSE 100 IT ÷@	58.64	...	+0.19	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ÷@	66.79	...	+0.21	...
UK Growth ÷@	77.29	...	+0.29	...

HENDERSON GLOBAL INVESTORS				
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dling: 0845 946 4646				
All Sits Credit A Inc ÷@	135.40	...	+0.50	...
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc @	103.99	109.24	-0.57	6.54
Cautious Man Fd A Acc @	0266.20	...	-0.60	...
Cautious Man Fd A Inc @	0156.80	...	+0.40	3.12
China Opp Fund A Acc @	0119.00	...	-9.00	...
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc @	0202.50	...	-0.80	...
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc @	0231.20	...	-0.90	...
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc @	0165.03	...	-8.00	...
Erpn Spt Sits A Acc GBP @	094.66	...	-0.29	...
Erpn Spt Sits Fd A Acc EUR @	04.84	...	-0.07	...
Erpn Spt Sits Fd Inc Fd Inc @	02.37	23.33	-0.10	...
Global Equity Income A Inc @	061.59	...	-0.15	3.17
Global Growth Fund Acc @	02847.67	2970.34	-16.38	...
Global Tech A Acc @	1474.00	...	-2.00	...
M-Man Abs Ret Fd A Acc @	0142.10	...	...	0.07
M-Man Active Fd A Acc @	0215.50	...	+0.90	0.40
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc @	0172.80	...	+0.50	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc @	0154.40	...	+0.40	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc @	0219.86	229.34	-0.57	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc @	66.06	68.91	-0.18	...
Sterling Bond U Trst A Inc @	126.80	...	...	4.55
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc @	156.90	...	...	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc @	141.60	...	+0.30	1.13
UK Index Fund A Acc @	612.10	...	+1.90	...
UK Irish Sm Co Fd A Acc @	0630.50	...	+1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	211.86	223.00	-0.03	2.95
UK Property A Inc @	98.43	103.60	-0.02	3.01
UK Tracker Fund A Acc @	0275.90	...	+0.90	...
US Growth Fund A Acc @	0947.80	...	-8.80	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD				
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6				
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Amer Ind Acc ÷@	472.10	...	-3.20	1.16
Amer Ind Inc ÷@	405.00	...	-2.70	1.18
Euro Ind Acc ÷@	849.70	...	-3.00	...
Euro Ind Inc ÷@	611.30	...	-2.20	...
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ÷@	222.00	...	+0.70	...
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ÷@	122.30	...	+0.40	...
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ÷@	259.70	...	+0.80	2.25
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ÷@	178.70	...	+0.50	2.32
FTSE All-S Acc ÷@	568.50	...	+1.80	...
FTSE All-S Inc ÷@	348.20	...	+1.10	...
Jap Ind Acc ÷@	111.30	...	-0.10	...
Jap Ind Inc ÷@	94.96	...	-0.07	...
Pac Ind Acc ÷@	356.20	...	-3.60	...
Pac Ind Inc ÷@	253.30	...	-2.50	2.03

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class				
Balanced Acc ÷@	211.80	...	+0.20	1.12
Balanced Inc ÷@	143.30	...	+0.20	1.13
Corp Btd Acc ÷@	278.10	...	+0.90	...
Corp Btd Inc ÷@	125.20	...	+0.40	2.89
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ÷@	465.90	...	+2.70	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ÷@	74.09	...	+0.44	...
Income Acc ÷@	666.80	...	+3.30	...
Income Inc ÷@	346.60	...	+1.70	...
Monthly Inc Acc ÷@	302.10	...	+1.30	3.64
Monthly Inc Inc ÷@	153.50	...	+0.70	3.71
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc @	0137.60	...	+0.90	3.26
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc @	075.80	...	+0.47	3.35
UK Gth & Inc Acc ÷@	137.60	...	+0.90	3.26
UK Gth & Inc Inc ÷@	75.80	...	+0.47	3.35

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)				
Amer Gth Acc ÷@	152.50	...	+1.10	0.12
Amer Gth Inc ÷@	152.40	...	+1.10	0.12
Asian Gth Acc ÷@	140.10	...	-1.10	...
Asian Gth Inc ÷@	125.50	...	-1.00	...
Chinese Eq Acc ÷@	471.90	...	+0.80	0.63
Chinese Eq Inc @	401.70	...	+0.70	...
Euro Gth Acc ÷@	826.50	...	-4.30	...
Euro Gth Inc ÷@	727.70	...	-3.80	...
UK Smr Co Acc ÷@	161.80	...	+1.50	1.68
UK Smr Co Inc ÷@	136.70	...	-0.30	...

Pension Unit Trusts				
HSBC FSAVC Unit Trust				
British	298.90	316.90	-3.60	...
Gilt & Fd Int	437.20	463.40	-14.50	...
Income	252.50	267.70	-0.90	...
Emerg & Fd Int	159.60	169.20	-1.30	...
Jap Gth	34.78	36.87	-0.22	...
Managed	180.70	191.60	+2.10	1.27
Money Market	148.40	157.30	...	...
North Amer	203.70	216.00	-8.10	...
HSBC Personal Pension Unit Trust				
British	334.30	334.30	...	...
Gilt & Fd Int	470.60	470.60	-15.70	...
Income	271.30	271.30	-0.90	...
Jap Gth	164.20	164.20	-1.40	...
Managed	35.76	35.76	...	...
Money Market	191.70	191.70	...	1.22
North Amer	163.50	163.50	...	0.22
North Amer	223.40	223.40	-9.30	...
Unit Trusts				
Port Inc	84.80	89.53	-0.80	2.70

AT THE COALFACE The new president of the advertising industry body tells **James Hurley** that it has nothing to fear from innovation in technology

I'm not joking, it's time to embrace automation

The machines are coming and we need to be ready. It sounds like a line from one of the Netflix or Sky Atlantic series that Sarah Golding likes to watch, but in fact it's the theme she wants to put at the heart of her two-year tenure as president of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising.

The industry body is celebrating its centenary, but Ms Golding, boss of CH&I Partners, an agency based in London's fashionable Soho, is determined to look forward, not back. Indeed, her appointment marks a break from the past. The honorary role typically has been held by a man of a certain age, sometimes leading to the suspicion that it is a cosy appointment for a retiring adland luvvie. At 46, Ms Golding is younger than most of her predecessors and is only the second woman president.

Being in the middle of her career rather than at the end will allow her to force her colleagues to confront the thorny question of automation, which is threatening jobs as well as rapidly changing business models in advertising. "The previous IPA agendas have been inward-looking and defensive," she said. "We need to look forwards."

"People are putting their heads in the sand. They are frightened of automation and they don't understand it."

Ms Golding admits that automation makes for an unlikely topic, championed by an unlikely figurehead. She counts herself among senior advertising executives who know too little about technology and took some convincing to take on the IPA role.

"I'm not a big joiner. I don't sit on a lot of committees. I like to work hard and then go home and watch TV."

"I never had any plan to be IPA president. I was



Sarah Golding, above, originally wanted to be a comic actor, having appeared with Ben Miller and Sue Perkins at university

incredibly flattered and honoured when I took the call. I said 'yes' because the industry took me in when I didn't know what I was going to do with my life."

"There's only been one other woman in 100 years [and] I thought it was about time there was another. I'm not afraid to express an opinion and there is a feeling that the industry body needed a shake-up."

Ms Golding was brought up in Blackburn, Lancashire, and flirted with becoming a comedy

actor while studying languages at the University of Cambridge. She shared Footlights stages with Ben Miller, Sue Perkins and Andy Parsons. "Trying to make people laugh is the hardest job in the world. Some nights you went on, you could hear the tumbleweed. That toughened me up."

Deciding that she couldn't afford the uncertainty of an actor's life — "In my final year at university my dad said, 'I am not bankrolling you come September, you'll be working in the local pub'" — she "stumbled into" advertising. Her first job was at Lowe Howard-Spink, working on the 1990s Weetabix adverts featuring Robin Hood (the hero abandons Maid Marian when he sees King John is eating the breakfast cereal).

"I met my husband and so many lifelong friends in advertising. It has been such a big part of my life. I care

and want it to be fit for purpose. And I could see we are vulnerable [to automation]."

Citing Bill Gates, the Microsoft founder, that it is "bad if people have more fear about what innovation is going to do than they have enthusiasm", Ms Golding is keen to emphasise the potential for the industry of technologies such as virtual and augmented reality. "I want us to embrace the machines so we can tell creative stories in a more engaging way. That's what our clients want. New things are viewed with suspicion. The minute people find a new technology useful, they will accept it. I want to create enthusiasm for machine-learning and creative technology."

With technology allowing advertisers to access more personal knowledge about us than ever before,

'Dark side' of the industry

This year global brands suspended advertising with Google after an investigation by *The Times* revealed their names appearing next to extremist videos and websites (James Hurley writes).

Sarah Golding, president of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, says that the issue represents a "dark side" that the advertising industry must confront.

As well as proving embarrassing for Google, the scandal prompted broader questions over whether digital advertising is damaging reputable brands. Tools that help advertising agencies to buy space online target potential customers on their broader internet habits, whatever website they visit. While such "programmatic advertising" is helpful for buying access to a target demographic, it leaves brands and their agencies with little control over exactly where they will appear.

According to Ms Golding: "The dark side here is programmatic online buying. The issue is the policing of where advertising appears. Half of our ad spend goes online, so it's important that we get that right."

Ms Golding's agenda is also dedicated to confronting the dark side of advertising's digital revolution. "There is a threat commercially and to our reputations. It's up to the IPA to protect us from that. Look at Uber and Airbnb: technology has allowed them to grow so quickly that they have got into grey areas and dark corners that have surprised them." The industry also must confront issues such as advertising fraud and programmatic buying, in which adverts from reputable brands can appear next to unsuitable content.

Yet she believes that advertising can be upbeat about automation. "We have to be glass-half-full about this. If I feel more confident, educated and enthusiastic about automation after my two years, I know others will, too. Let's be positive, confident and proactive. We are a great industry."

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Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



Property is still paying dividends

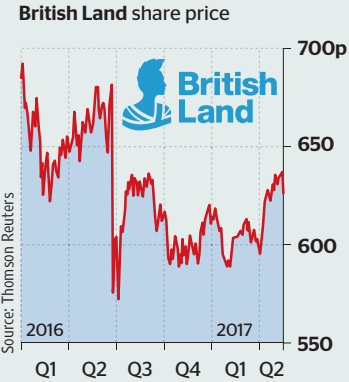
BRITISH LAND	
Net asset value per share 915p	Dividend yield 4.6%

The market reaction to the British Land figures to the end of March, the first from a big London property company, might seem perverse. Net assets per share, off only 0.4 per cent at 915p, are almost 5 per cent ahead of consensus forecasts, though it is fair to say that some analysts had been a bit tardy in updating these.

This was largely thanks to a bounce in the second half of 2.7 per cent, higher than expected, as the market settled down after the initial shock of the referendum. All the other metrics are heading in the right direction. Letting activity remains strong, with 1.7million sq ft out during the financial year at 8 per cent ahead of estimated rental value.

Most of this was retail, inevitably, at an 1l per cent premium to ERV. Office lettings were more muted. British Land says that there is still

Ready for any outcome



MY ADVICE Buy
WHY If you are not pessimistic about the London property market British Land looks well placed, and the dividend yield is worth having

plenty of interest for space in London, which comprises 57 per cent of its portfolio. Two properties are now 80 per cent let on or not long after completion, at Paddington and in Mayfair. Disposals of £1.5billion include the £575million not yet in from the sale of the Leadenhall Building, aka the Cheesegrater. Even without this, disposals were running at about twice acquisitions and other investment. This, we are assured, is not an indication of extreme caution but just how things have panned out and

Portfolio performance Year to the end of March			
	Valuation (change)	Estimated retail value growth	Total return
Retail	£6,654m (▼1.8%)	▲1.6%	▲3.5%
Offices/ residential	£7,015m (▼0.5%)	▲0.5%	▲3.0%
Canada Water	£271m (▼10.8%)	▲0.9%	▼8.1%
Total	£13,940m (▼1.4%)	▲1.1%	▲3.1%

there is about £200million of further capital spending committed and another £350million lined up, including two developments in or around the City and one in Regents Park.

The Cheesegrater sale will drop the loan-to-value ratio to a conservative 26.9 per cent. Lettings have meant that the amount of exposure to speculative development is now a mere 4 per cent.

All the above suggests a company well prepared for any reasonable outcome for the property market, even if the uncertainties remain and some clients are taking a little longer to make up their minds.

The fall in the share price of 22½p to 651½p probably reflects some understandable profit-taking. British Land always sets its dividend well in advance and this year's payment suggests a forward yield of 4.6 per cent. Not a bad income, but you would have to be reasonably optimistic about London property.

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SSE	
Revenue £29bn	£1.78bn Dividend
Pre-tax profit	yield 6.3%

We are heading into the dividend season for the quoted utilities with March year-ends. National Grid is up today, the two large quoted water companies next week. Such businesses offer investors a high and reliable dividend income linked with inflation. The question with each is just how reliable that income is.

At the riskier end of the scale would seem to be SSE, the Scottish energy supplier, whose shares rose 17p to £14.68 yesterday. SSE said that dividend cover this year would come in at the bottom end of the projected scale of 1.4 to 1.2 times earnings, a bit low even if such regulated utilities have a clearer indication of future earnings than others.

A note from Jefferies, the broker, suggests that if this is the case, projections for earnings per share for this year are too high. The retail business is the most vulnerable, while wholesale and networks have the protection of those regulated revenues. None of this takes account a potential price cap by the Tories from 2018. Analysts reckon that SSE can just about afford the dividend. There seems little reason to buy the shares now, though.

MY ADVICE Hold
WHY Yield is good but there are many uncertainties

BREWIN DOLPHIN	
Funds under mgmt £37.8m	Dividend yield 4.6%

It was fairly obvious that Brewin Dolphin, reporting halfway figures to the end of March a day after the launch of Vanguard's low-cost investment service, was going to be asked about it, even if the read-across is minimal. The wealth manager is expanding its discretionary funds side, 83 per cent of all those under management, which advises clients directly. Vanguard is offering mainly more commoditised tracker funds.

The discretionary side reported an

increase in funds of £2.7billion, of which £1.1billion came from net inflows. There will be another £700million added now that the acquisition of Duncan Lawrie Asset Management is completed. That was an opportunistic deal. Brewin Dolphin has about £75million of surplus funds to pay for any others that come along or, much further down the line, return to investors. For now, the halfway dividend is up by 10.4 per cent.

The company has been restructuring to make itself more efficient, which has tended to put such deals on hold. It slipped up last year when a projected margin increase to 25 per cent from such

efficiencies failed to materialise and the target has been pushed forward by two years.

As Brewin Dolphin gets larger, those margins can only increase. Further acquisitions, though, inevitably will raise the question of whether key staff can be retained. The shares have had a decent run since the autumn and, off 4¼p at 326½ p, sell on 16 times earnings, which looks high enough.

MY ADVICE Avoid
WHY No obvious catalysts for immediate progress

And finally...

An update arrives from Coats, the old Coats Viyella business now selling yarns for industrial applications. The company, one of the more remarkable corporate transformations in recent years, reported a further 3 per cent organic growth in sales in the first four months of the year. It has a market capitalisation approaching £1 billion and now it is solely listed in London should go into the FTSE 250 next month. Coats has raised guidance for this year, sending the shares ahead by 10 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

VW bosses face inquiry

German prosecutors confirmed that Matthias Müller, chief executive of Volkswagen, is under investigation over events linked to emissions scandal. The state prosecutor in Stuttgart said that Mr Müller, his predecessor Martin Winterkorn and Hans Dieter Pötsch, the company's chairman, had been under investigation since February on suspicion of alleged stock market manipulation in connection with the scandal and whether details were withheld from investors.

New York speed bump

The New York Stock Exchange has been granted permission by regulators to implement a "speed bump" delay in trading. The US Securities and Exchange Commission gave its approval to the plans, which allow a delay of 350 microseconds to incoming and outgoing orders on its MKT exchange, which has been renamed NYSE American, for small and mid-cap companies.

Wincanton cuts debt

Wincanton raised its full-year dividend to 9.1p a share, from 5.1p, despite a £20million drop in pre-tax profit to £45.4million. The logistics group also trimmed its debt by nearly 39 per cent to £24.3million. New business wins included contracts with Wilko to manage transport operations, Ikea to operate two distribution centres and a home delivery contract with Wickes. The shares closed 21p up at 295½p.

Putting a lid on it

United Closures and Plastics will invest more than £12million to develop anti-tampering bottle tops for the spirits industry. Forty-nine jobs will be created at the company's Bridge of Allan plant in Stirling, which already has a 300-strong workforce, and Scottish Enterprise is providing a £1.5million research and development grant as part of the project to stop counterfeit goods in the food and drink industry.

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PRICES

Major indices

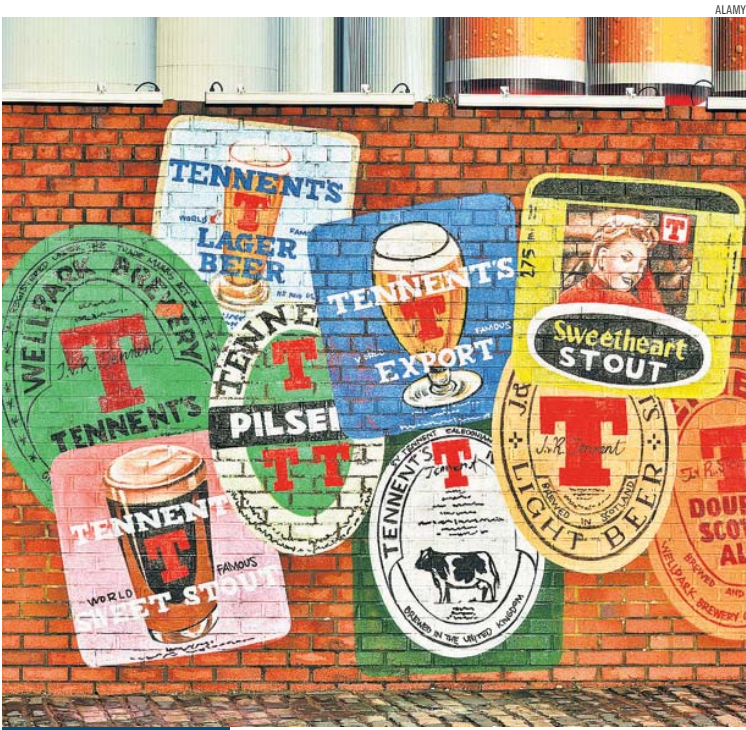
New York		Zurich	
Dow Jones	20606.93 (-372.82)	SMI Index	9001.60 (-126.01)
Nasdaq Composite	6011.24 (-158.63)	DJ EURO Stoxx 50	3584.83 (-57.06)
S&P 500	2357.03 (-43.64)		
Tokyo		London	
Nikkei 225	19814.88 (-104.94)	FTSE 100	7503.47 (-18.56)
Hong Kong		FTSE 250	19773.59 (-102.30)
Hang Seng	25293.63 (-42.31)	FTSE 350	4158.30 (-12.20)
Amsterdam		FTSE Eurotop 100	3023.91 (-36.81)
AEX Index	529.06 (-6.70)	FTSE All-Shares	4101.20 (-11.90)
Sydney		FTSE Non Financials	4848.10 (-4.41)
AO	5821.20 (-61.00)	techMARK 100	4623.44 (-26.14)
Frankfurt		Bargains	n/a
DAX	12631.61 (-172.92)	US\$	1.2963 (+0.0047)
Singapore		Euro	1.1620 (-0.0022)
Straits	3224.10 (-3.61)	£:SDR	0.92 (+0.00)
Brussels		Exchange Index	78.50 (-0.03)
BEL20	3954.11 (-56.47)	Bank of England official close (4pm)	
Paris		CPI	102.50 Mar (2015 = 100)
CAC-40	5317.89 (-88.21)	RPI	269.30 Mar (Jan 1987 = 100)
		RPIX	269.70 Mar (Jan 1987 = 100)
		Morningstar Long Commodity	539.82 (-0.48)
		Morningstar Long/Short Commod	3893.05 (-11.22)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 17	128.10	128.66	127.94	128.46	170540	710092
	Sep 17	127.00	127.00	126.89	127.31	6	30
	Dec 17	99.680	99.685	99.680	99.680	26177	341313
3-Mth Sterling	Sep 17	99.660	99.660	99.650	99.650	33294	441704
	Dec 17	99.630	99.630	99.620	99.620	55094	396831
	Mar 18	99.590	99.600	99.580	99.590	60360	337818
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 18	99.540	99.570	99.540	99.560	62966	413690
	Jun 17	100.34	100.34	100.33	100.33	26326	400504
	Sep 17	100.32	100.33	100.32	100.32	51563	486720
3-Mth Eurosww	Dec 17	100.30	100.30	100.29	100.30	59818	353060
	Mar 18	100.25	100.27	100.25	100.26	94639	407541
	Jun 18	100.20	100.23	100.20	100.22	68621	423342
2 Year Swapnote	Jun 17	100.74	100.74	100.73	100.73	4128	63179
	Sep 17	100.76	100.77	100.75	100.76	8991	50835
	Dec 17	100.75	100.78	100.75	100.76	5607	51932
3-Mth Eurosww	Jun 17	112.31	112.31	112.28	112.30	222	10127
	Mar 18	100.73	100.77	100.73	100.75	6441	29068
	Mar 18						
5 Year Swapnote	Jun 17	128.86	128.90	128.76	128.89	361	9734
	Mar 18						
	Mar 18						
10 Year Swapnote	Jun 17		150.05	150.05	150.46		1147
	Mar 18						
	Mar 18						
FTSE100	Jun 17	7460.0	7497.0	7443.5	7464.0	123471	755602
	Sep 17	7401.0	7412.5	7394.0	7399.0	24	10766
	Jun 17				4919.0		
FTSEurofirst 80	Sep 17				4915.5		
	Sep 17						

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)			
Brent (9.00pm)			
Jul	52.13-52.12	Oct	52.67-52.63
Aug	52.35-52.33	Nov	52.80-52.77
Sep	52.51-52.48	Volume:	1218922
Crude Oils (\$/barrel FOB)			
Brent Physical	51.35	+0.24	
BFOE(Aug)	52.53	+0.53	
BFOE(Jul)	52.25	+0.56	
WTI(Jul)	49.70	+0.41	
WTI(Aug)	49.41	+0.41	
Products (\$/MT)			
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)			
Premium Unld	532.00	535.00	+4.00
Gasoil EEC	458.50	460.50	+5.50
3.5 Fuel Oil	281.00	281.25	+3.25
Naphtha	446.00	448.00	+4.00
ICE Futures			
Gas Oil			
Jun	460.50-460.25	Sep	465.25-465.00
Jul	461.00-460.75	Oct	468.25-468.00
Aug	463.00-462.75	Volume:	435609
RobustaCoffee			
May	2185-1920	Jan	2063-1986
Jul	2009-2008	Mar	2089-1918
Sep	2030-2010		
Nov	2039-2032	Volume:	15579
White Sugar (FOB)			
Reuters			
Mar	452.40-450.70		
May	512.00-451.90		
Aug	459.90-459.00	Aug	449.60-440.00
Oct	447.00-446.40	Oct	447.00-446.40
Dec	448.50-447.10	Volume:	23991



C&C sees red after cider blues

C&C Group is in the red after a €129 million writedown on its cider business in the United States (Greig Cameron writes). A restructuring

charge of more than €17 million for plant closures in England and Ireland was also included as the Magners and Tennent's owner unveiled a €62.9 million pre-tax loss in the 12 months to February 28, against a €56.3 million profit in the year before. On an underlying basis, stripping out

currency fluctuations and exceptional items, the Dublin company said that operating profit was down only 0.4 per cent at €95 million, even though net revenue dropped almost 7 per cent to €599.5 million. Poorer performance in the American cider business was blamed for the revenue fall.

Results in brief

Name	Pre-tax figure Profit (+) loss (-)	Dividend
Altitude (technology FY)	£0.1m (-£1.3m)	nil
Brewin Dolphin (finance HY)	£28.4m	4.25p Jun 16
British Land (property FY)	£195m (£1.3bn)	29.2p f 7.30p p Aug 4
C&C (consumer FY)	-£62.9m (£56.3m)	14.33c f 9.37c p Jul 14
Countryside Properties (property HY)	£60.3m (£18.1m)	3.4p p Jul 7
JZ Capital Partners (finance FY)	\$23.4m (\$52m)	30.5c paid
Mitchells & Butlers (consumer HY)	£75m (£83m)	2.5p p Jul 3
Patisserie Holdings (consumer HY)	£9.7m (£8.4m)	1.20p p Jul 7
Redx Pharma (health HY)	-£11m (-£6.7m)	nil
Sophos (technology FY)	-\$49.3m (-\$68.4m)	4.6c f 3.3c p Oct 13
SSE (utilities FY)	£1.8bn (£585.2m)	91.3p f 63.9p p Sept 22
Wincanton (transport FY)	£45.4m (£65.8m)	9.1p f 6.1p p Aug 4

● Results in brief are given for all companies valued at more than £30 million. f = final p = payable

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Fresnillo Gold prices rally	2.5%
Tesco Shares move higher amid expectations from Booker deal	2.16%
Kingfisher Broker upgrades shares to 'buy'	2.09%
Randgold Resources Safe haven mining stocks rise	2.05%
Lloyds Government sells final stake	1.95%
Rolls-Royce Analysts flag concerns over launch of new engine	-2.6%
Hikma Pharmaceuticals Broker downgrade over delay in US approvals for key drug	-2.77%
British Land Reports fall in asset value amid Brexit concerns	-3.34%
CRH Hit by concerns over US infrastructure spending	-3.48%
Ashstead Concern over the strength of the US construction tool hire industry	-3.8%

Go on, invest, if you think you're brave enough

Alexandra Frean Market report



As advice goes, Liberum's take on Astrazeneca yesterday was surely as qualified as it comes. Its analysts rated the pharmaceuticals group's shares a "buy", but then added that their recommendation was "a risky call" and "an opportunity for the brave". All this came in the wake of news on Friday of strong results from a trial of a lung cancer treatment, which quickly sent the shares 9 per cent higher amid hopes that the development could help to offset the loss of patents on blockbuster drugs. Although the shares have continued to edge up this week, Liberum said that "it would be easy to downgrade" Astra (which, conspicuously, it didn't) and though

Wall Street report

Remember when people were buying into the idea of a President Trump-inspired bonanza? Memories can be short and New York wasn't buying anything yesterday, the Dow Jones industrial average falling 372.82 points to close on 20,606.93.

RETAILING

Something sweet for investors

While Mitchells & Butlers was lamenting a fall in half-year profits on the back of rising costs, Patisserie Holdings was toasting strong growth across all its main metrics. Revenues in the first half jumped by 11 per cent to £55.5 million, while pre-tax profits leapt by 15.7 per cent to £9.7 million. Luke Johnson, the operator's chairman, said that the group had managed to prosper in a challenging environment because it offered "an affordable treat", its



Patisserie Valerie has proved popular as an all-day concept

margins on coffee and cakes were high and it was a differentiated, all-day concept. He said that there was scope to more than double the number of Patisserie Valerie outlets from its present 143, while

the recent opening of its first international store, in the Blanchardstown shopping centre near Dublin, also provided opportunities for expansion. Paul May, chief executive, said that the group was also considering approaches from potential franchisees in other countries, although it would be at least 18 months before it signed its first deal. Shares of Patisserie holdings, which were floated at 170p three years ago, rose 24p to close on 344p, up 7.5 per cent.

the shares rose a further 7p yesterday to £52.55, they are still below the £55-a-share offer that Pfizer proposed three years ago. Liberum thinks that a downgrade would be the wrong decision and has a target price on the shares of £55. It estimates "a very high chance of success" for trials involving Imfinzi (durvalumab) and Tagrisso (osimertinib), but offered a further caveat to show that its advice is not for the timid. "If we are wrong and these fail, there is 15 per cent-plus downside," it warned. Liberum was not alone. Analysts at Berenberg also said that Astra was a "hard call" as they reiterated their "buy" recommendation, lifting their target price for the shares by 3 per cent to £58.60. They said that sales for Imfinzi in the United States could reach \$2 billion, making this a "blockbuster" opportunity. The FTSE 100 was flat, down a mere 0.25 per cent but remaining



within a whisker of the record high of 7,522.03 set in the previous session. It provided a relative haven from the Trump-inspired wobbles on the American markets, thanks in part to optimism about the British general election. Fresnillo and Randgold Resources, the goldminers, rose 43p to £16.06 and 150p to £74.70, respectively. Lloyds Banking Group was among the biggest risers, closing up 1¼p at 71¼p, after the government sold its remaining stake. For Jasper Lawler, senior market analyst at London Capital Group, a return to private ownership distances the bank from the trauma of the bailout and removes a possible cap on share price gains. Hargreaves Lansdown rose 23p to £13.47 per cent. Weighing on the FTSE 100 was British Land. The property group said that it expected Brexit jitters to continue for some time. The shares

fell 22½p to 651½p. A downgrade by Jefferies for the pharmaceuticals company Hikma from "buy" to "underperform" over delays in approvals in the United States for a generic version of Glaxo's Advair treatment pushed the company down 49p to £17.17. Worries in the US also hit Ashstead, the equipment hire company, and CRH, the construction group. Both have been boosted recently by expectations of an infrastructure splurge by President Trump. The shares fell 62p to £15.60 and £1 to £27.74, respectively. On the FTSE 250 index of mic-cap shares, those of the cybersecurity providers NCC and Sophos, which have been on a roll after the ransomware cyberattack on companies around the world on Friday, continued to rise. NCC ended the session 13¼p up at 157¼p, while Sophos, which reported results that were better than expected yesterday, rose 29½p to 395½p.

London Grain Futures					
LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)					
May	148.90	Jul	149.50	Nov	140.70
Jan	unq	Mar	unq	Volume:	575
London Metal Exchange					
(Official)					
Cash	3mth			15mth	
Copper Gde A (\$/tonne)					
5573.0-5575.0		5595.0-5597.0		7310.0-7320.0	
Lead (\$/tonne)					
2101.0-2102.0		2114.0-2114.5		1980.0-1985.0	
Zinc Spec Hi Gde (\$/tonne)					
2560.5-2561.0		2578.0-2579.0		1943.0-1948.0	
Tin (\$/tonne)					
20050.0-20055.0		19925.0-19975.0		19650.0-19700.0	
Alum Hi Gde (\$/tonne)					
1927.0-1928.0		1925.5-1926.0		2280.0-2285.0	
Nickel (\$/tonne)					
9160.0-9165.0		9195.0-9200.0		0.00.0	

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)				
Bullion: Open \$1243.43				
Close \$1257.29-1257.38 High \$1259.63				
Low \$1241.56				
AM \$1244.60 PM \$1257.40				
Krugerrand \$1172.00-1244.00 (£904.87-960.45)				
Platinum \$949.00 (£732.69)				
Silver \$16.93 (£13.07)				
Palladium \$786.00 (£606.85)				
European money deposits %				
Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	0.26	0.31	0.45	0.66
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %				
Base Rates Clearing Banks: 0.25 Finance House 1.0 ECB Refi 0.00 US Fed Fd 0.75-1.00				
Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.74				
Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 0.059; 3mth 0.067. Sell: 1 mth 0.064; 3 mth 0.044				
	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth 12 mth
Interbank Rates	0.2551	0.2798	0.3153	0.4529 0.6594
Clearer CDs	0.25-0.15	0.30-0.20	0.35-0.25	0.50-0.35 0.65-0.50
Depo CDs	0.25-0.15	0.30-0.20	0.35-0.25	0.50-0.35 0.65-0.50
Eurodollar Deps	0.97-1.09	0.98-1.10	1.13-1.25	1.35-1.47 1.76-1.86
Eurodollar CDs	0.20-0.13	0.25-0.15	0.29-0.17	0.49-0.30 0.85-0.55
Sterling spot and forward rates				
Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.6373-8.6900	8.6484-8.6496	63ds	194ds
Euro	1.1680-1.1612	1.1628-1.1626	6pr	17pr
Montreal	1.7544-1.7692	1.7626-1.7629	6pr	21pr
New York	1.2908-1.2989	1.2952-1.2952	11pr	36pr
Oslo	10.863-10.968	10.886-10.889	44pr	145pr
Stockholm	11.311-11.391	11.327-11.330	79ds	259ds
Tokyo	144.08-145.89	144.14-144.16	4ds	19ds
Zurich	1.2675-1.2763	1.2697-1.2699	12ds	40ds
Premium = pr Discount = ds				

Dollar rates	
Australia	1.3462-1.3462
Canada	1.3610-1.3610
Denmark	6.6775-6.6782
Euro	0.8976-0.8978
Hong Kong	7.7867-7.7870
Japan	111.29-111.30
Malaysia	4.3190-4.3240
Norway	8.4053-8.4067
Singapore	1.3914-1.3915
Sweden	8.7459-8.7473
Switzerland	0.9804-0.9805
Other Sterling	
Argentina peso	20.207-20.208
Australia dollar	1.7434-1.7436
Bahrain dinar	0.4847-0.4916
Brazil real	4.0153-4.0192
Euro	1.1626-1.1628
Hong Kong dollar	10.085-10.086
India rupee	83.042-83.068
Indonesia rupiah	17119-17137
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3923-0.3947
Malaysia ringgit	5.5935-5.6000
New Zealand dollar	1.8677-1.8681
Singapore dollar	1.8019-1.8024
S Africa rand	17.053-17.066
U A E dirham	4.7563-4.7565

Exchange rates		
	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.890	1.650
Canada \$	1.910	1.660
Denmark Kr	9.310	8.160
Egypt	n/a	n/a
Euro €	1.270	1.110
Hong Kong \$	10.790	9.490
Hungary	395.680	325.540
Indonesia	19738.000	15744.100
Israel Shk	5.110	4.360
Japan Yen	158.280	137.080
New Zealand \$	2.090	1.770
Norway Kr	11.890	10.270
Poland	5.390	4.410
Russia	78.310	65.210
S Africa Rd	18.740	15.870
Sweden Kr	12.110	10.760
Switzerland Fr	1.400	1.210
Turkey Lira	5.090	4.350
USA \$	1.410	1.230
Rates for banknotes and traveller's cheques as traded by Royal Bank of Scotland plc yesterday		
MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication		

Business Equity prices

12 month	Price			
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E

Banking & finance

72	54½	1PIH♦	55½	...	0.6	10.0
348½	245½	Aberdeen Asset	290½	- 3½	6.7	23.0
2260	1732	Admiral♦	1999	...	3.5	25.4
30½	17	ADVFH♦	21½	...	...	...
258½	104½	Aldermore Gp	250	- 5½	...	9.2
...	...	Allecto Minerals♦	...	...	...	0.9
4½	1½	Ambrion♦	2½	...	-3.8	...
32½	9	Amedeo Res♦	23½	- 1½	...	-4.0
5	1	Amphion Innovs♦	...	...	-0.2	...
27	13½	Amryt Pharma♦	22½	+ 1½	...	...
9735½	7883½	Aon Corp	9710½	+ ½	1.0	23.2
1717	1375	Arbutnot Bldg♦	1484½	+ 7½	2.0	...
35	22½	Arden Partners♦	32	- 1	...	...
17	9	Argo Group♦	15½	...	...	18.8
375½	260	Ashtmore Gp	354½	+ 4½	4.7	19.6
239½	127½	Aus New Z	1669½	- 2½	8.3	13.9
544	346½	Aviva♦	528	- 6½	4.0	34.9
67½	53½	AXA Property Tr	57½	+	...	...
532½	275½	Banco Santander	512½	- 1½	3.4	14.2
239½	127½	Barclays	209½	- 2	1.4	15.9
460	331½	Beazley	448½	...	2.2	13.9
3707	2307	BGEo Group	3706	- 7	3.1	10.7
½	...	Blue Star Capital♦	½	...	...	-4.5
215	150½	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	208½	...	1.3	7.0
196	5½	Brazeheart Inv♦	16½	...	...	...
334	210½	Brenton Dolphin	326½	- 4½	3.7	23.4
2350½	1400	Brooks Mac♦	2350	+ 2	1.4	21.3
7½	5½	Cap & Nchs Mar♦	6	+	...	-5.2
61½	47½	Carador	56½	- ½	12.9	-7.5
149	69	Cenkos Secs♦	102	...	13.7	44.3
342½	251½	Charles Stanley	342½	+ 7	1.4	...
327½	205½	Charles Taylor♦	233	+ 2	4.2	12.8
396½	254½	Chesnaar♦	385	+ ¼	4.9	40.7
7½	2½	City of Lon Gp♦	4½	...	...	-0.1
400½	285	City Lon Inv Gp	383½	+ 3½	6.2	12.7
1½	½	Clear Leisure♦	½	...	...	-0.5
1715	989½	Close Bros	1609	- 21	3.5	12.3
290½	94½	CMC Markets	128	- 2½	...	8.5
825½	441½	Commerzbank	808½	- 23½	2.1	36.3
302	208	CYBG	273½	- 7½	...	...
1661½	896½	Deutsche Bank	1447½	- 52½	...	...
399½	333½	Direct Line Ins♦	350½	+ 2½	4.0	17.3
89	83½	Downing ONE VCT	85½	...	7.0	...
1½	½	Dragonfly Invs♦	½	...	...	-0.6

Investment companies

12 month	Price			
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm

840½	469½	3i Group	840½	+ 2	2.6	50.1
200	166½	3i Infrastructure	196½	- ¼	3.9	18.8
123½	102½	Abnrdn Div I&G	115½	- ¼	5.6	-6.9
1316	849	Aberthaw Smir	1307	- 3	2.0	-9.9
701½	485½	Alliance	695½	- 6	1.8	-3.9
...	...	Arc Cap Hldgs♦	20½	...	...	-47.3
252	175	Attehill Trust	252	...	3.4	-6.3
654½	495	Bailie Gifford SN	637½	+ ½	...	-0.1
797	550	Bankers'	786½	- 10½	2.1	-2.7
1317	1181	BH Global	1286½	+ ½	...	-9.2
1020½	919½	BH Global	981½	+ 3½	...	-8.0
2160	1875	BH Macro	2037	...	...	-6.3
177½	1560½	BH Macro	1704½	...	...	-6.2
1597½	1383½	BH Macro	1568½	+ 7½	...	-6.2
781	564	Biotech Growth	688½	- 6½	...	-7.6
91½	59½	BLK Com Inc	72½	- ¼	5.4	-1.9
341½	214½	BlackRock	338½	- 3½	1.7	-3.8
150	110½	BlackFrolv	147	- ¼	3.4	-4.7
312	238	BLK Eur♦	311	- ¼	1.7	-3.9
204½	171	BlackRock Inc & Gwth	204½	+ 1	3.0	-0.6
456½	308½	BLK Latin Am	450½	- 7½	...	-12.5
176½	122½	BlackRock N Amer Inc	154½	- 1½	3.1	-6.2
1221	735	BLK Smir	1211	- 10	1.7	-11.4
433½	266½	BlackRock Thymorton	432	- 1½	1.7	-15.1
403	219½	BLK Wild Mtn	337½	- 1¼	3.8	-9.4
63	27½	Blue Plan G&I Uts♦	27½	...	...	-51.0
50	31½	Blue Plan Int Fn	49½	...	6.0	-6.4
688½	461½	Br Empire Sec	671	- 6	1.7	-11.1
702½	503	Brunner	699	- 2½	2.2	-10.8
287½	2152	Caledonia Inv	277½	- 21	1.9	-18.3
134½	89½	Candover	133	...	...	-20.7
242½	193	Charter European	194	- ½	2.0	-1.3
198	171½	City Merch Hl Yld♦	197½	+ ½	5.0	2.1
436	356	City of Lon IT♦	433	- 2½	3.8	2.1
246	143	Crystal Amber F♦	232½	...	2.1	-0.4
371½	299	Dunedin Entp♦	348½	+ ¼	5.0	-28.7
770	620	Edinburgh IT♦	763	- 7	3.2	-2.2
575½	419½	Edin Wwide	572	- 2	...	-10.5
5110	2479	Electra Pet Eeq	2665	- 79	...	-5.4
200	132½	Fidelity China Sp	199½	- 1½	0.9	-12.5
218	151½	Fidelity Euro Val♦	216½	- 1½	1.9	-6.8
112½	87½	Fidelity Jap Val♦	111½	+ 1	...	-16.0
250½	170	Fidelity Spec Val	245½	- 3½	1.4	-2.2
727½	562½	Fins Gwth & Inc	721	- 6	1.8	1.1
134½	117	GOP Infrastructure	129	+ ¼	5.8	15.9
655	482	Gem Emer Mkts	650½	- 4½	...	-12.6
56½	29½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	36½	+ 1	...	-13.9
...	...	Greenoact UK	...	...	...	...
347½	300	Gresham House♦	317½	...	0.7	-29.9
935	692	Hansa Tst♦	923½	+ 11	1.7	-29.3
907½	691	Hansa Tst A	902½	- 2½	1.7	-30.9
1303	875	Hervest Gbl Pt Eeq	1300	+ 1	...	-8.9
1375	884½	Hend Euro Foc	1365	- 10	1.9	2.8
197	159½	Hend High Inc	196½	- ½	4.6	1.9
768	522	Hend Smir	766½	- 1½	2.0	13.9
291½	214½	Henderson Value	274½	+ ¼	1.3	-15.3
494	654	Herald	987½	- 11½	...	-18.6
1620	1139	Hgcapital Trust	1522	- 8	3.0	-7.1
185	159½	HICL Infra	173½	+ ¼	4.3	17.1
210½	176½	Highbridge Multi	209	- ¼	...	-2.5
108½	98½	Highbridge Multi	102½	...	...	-4.2
759	532	ICG Ent Tr	757	- 2	2.6	-11.7
230½	164	Imapx Env Mkts♦	222½	- 2½	0.8	-11.9
268½	175	IVCO AsTr	265½	- 2½	1.3	-10.0
305	247	IVCO Inc	302	- 3	3.4	-9.4
133½	119	IPST Bld	132	...	...	-1.3
198½	151½	IPST Gbl Eql	194	- 1	3.2	-2.0
101½	100	IPST Managed	101½	- ¼	...	-1.8
190½	156½	IPST UK Eql	190½	- ¼	3.2	-1.8
80½	70½	Invesco Per End Inc	80½	+ ¼	6.2	5.3

12 month	Price			
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E

226½	135½	EFFG-Hermes Hldg	226½	+ 3	...	9.5
29	21½	EHH♦	21½	+	...	...
70	50	El Oro	65	...	3.7	5.0
3½	1½	Energiser Inv♦	2½	- ¼	...	-3.2
294	125½	EPE Special Opps♦	292½	...	...	...
304½	188½	Esure♦	262½	- 1½	3.1	18.4
131½	11½	Fairpoint♦	13½	...	48.5	-0.9
711½	478	FBD	708½	- 10½	...	31.9
34½	34½	Fiske♦	50	...	0.5	-4.0
67	43	Frenkel Topping♦	63	...	1.1	39.6
31½	17½	GU Finance♦	17½	...	21.1	-1.8
870	750	Gresh Hse Strat♦	855	...	...	7.4
308½	210	H&K Group♦	293½	+ 2½	2.8	14.0
142½	85½	Hansard Global	89½	+ 1½	9.9	15.7
1447	1056	Hargreaves L	1347	+ 23	1.6	36.1
312½	165	Hastings Gp♦	304½	- ¼	1.8	25.6
182½	140	Hellas Under♦	167½	...	0.9	14.1
270½	195	Henderson Gp♦	231	- 6½	4.5	23.5
18	11½	Highway Capital♦	15½	- ½	...	-7.9
1208	915½	Hiscox♦	1199	- 1	2.0	10.3
712½	425½	HSBC	678½	- 9	6.1	...
959½	450½	IG Group	556	+ 1	5.6	12.0
101½	47½	Impac♦	99½	- 1½	2.1	22.7
816½	510½	Intermediate Cap	798	- 16½	3.2	13.9
341½	157½	IPF	171½	- 2½	7.2	6.9
162½	144½	Intl Publ Pntshp♦	161	- ½	4.0	9.3
619	419½	Investec	602	...	3.4	14.0
373½	322½	Investment Co♦	340	...	6.0	19.9
200	120½	IP Group	150	+ 6½	...	...
...	...	IRF Euro Fin Inv	...	...	...	...
1154	840½	Jardine Lyd Th	1135	- 8	2.7	30.0
466	298	Jarvis Securities♦	465	...	3.7	17.6
156	86	JRP Group♦	128	- 1½	2.5	...
492½	328½	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	479	- 9½	2.8	16.8
758	518½	Langlands Hldgs	671½	- 6½	1.5	-12.5
43½	3	Leaf Clean Energy♦	38	+ ½	...	3.2
40	34	Leeds Group♦	40	+ 1	...	9.0
261½	165	Legal & Gen♦	252½	- 5	5.5	11.9
½	½	Legendary Invs♦	½	...	...	...
7852½	622½	Liberty Group	622½	- 12½	6.7	13.3
461½	235	Liontrust	461½	+ 6½	2.6	36.6
50½	25	Livemore Invs♦	43½	+ 1½	3.9	...
73½	47½	Lloyds Bkg Gp	71½	+ 1½	3.2	29.8
63½	41½	LMS Capital	44½	...	...	...
6½	2½	Lon Capital Gp♦	3½	- ¼	...	-0.2

12 month	Price			
High Low Company	(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E

3477	2289	Land Stk Ex Gp♦	3427	- 51	1.0	54.8
161½	107½	Man	156	- 3½	4.9	...
9½	6½	Manx Fin♦	9½	- ¼	...	7.9
1½	1½	Marechal Cap♦	1½	...	...	...
5816½	4853½	Marsh Mcln	5682	- 28½	1.9	19.9
851½	636½	Mattoli Woods♦	828	- 13½	1.3	39.2
4½	1½	Metal Tiger♦	2½	...	...	...
3669	1623	Metro Bank	3660	- 52	...	...
41½	21½	Miton Group♦	40	+	1.6	21.0
1958½	1403½	Nat Aust Bkt	1764½	- 38½	9.7	13.4
848½	464½	NEX Group	610	+ 6	6.3	57.6
286½	180½	Nomis♦	275½	+ 7½	2.3	14.9
170½	122½	Oakley Cap Invs♦	170½	+	...	18.9
229	164½	Old Mutual	196	- ½	4.5	19.4
464	176½	Onesavings Bank♦	450	- 5½	2.1	9.1
2½	1½	Origo Partners♦	1½	...	...	-0.3
887½	730	P2P Gbl Invs♦	874	+ 1½	5.0	22.3
99	45½	Pannure Gordon♦	99	...	...	12.7
486	227½	Paragon	465	- 6½	2.5	11.7
87	60½	Park Group♦	83½	+ ¼	2.9	16.0
1168	850	PayPoint	1005	+ 2	4.2	36.5
480	305½	Paysafe Group	466½	- 3½	...	20.6
38½	30½	Phaunos Timber	37½	+ ½	0.6	13.8
893½	697½	Phoenix Gp Hldgs	745	- 3½	6.1	...
...	...	PLUS Markets♦	...	...	...	-1.8
3½	1	Plutus PowerGen♦	1½	...	...	...
7½	3½	Polo Resources♦	4½	...	...	-0.6
34½	22½	Private & Comm♦	23½	+ ¼	...	13.0
16½	14	Pro Global Ins♦	14	...	...	-11.2</

Equity prices Business

12 month		Company	Price			
High	Low		(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1%	1%	Share Hldgs♦	%	...	...	...
5323	3956	Sure	4731½	- 30%	0.4	93.8
129½	72%	Silence Therap♦	95½	+ 7½	...	-7.8
36½	26½	Sindair Pharma♦	34½	+ ¼	...	-6.9
1325	1067	Smith & Neph	1325	- 7	1.9	18.6
400	305	Spire Hcare	346	- 3½	1.0	26.0
252½	91	Sunmit Corp♦	180	...	...	-5.2
390	153	Swallowfield♦	375	- 10	0.7	21.5
37	10%	Synairgen♦	10½	- ½	...	-4.3
21½	15%	Tissue Regenix♦	15½	...	...	...
240	129½	Tiziana Life♦	200	- 2½	...	...
208½	89	Tristel♦	206	...	1.6	27.4
767	542½	UDG Healthcare	748	- 12	1.2	34.8
14%	2%	Valit♦	2½	...	...	-0.2
171	121½	Vectura Grp	121½	- 1½	...	...
48%	16%	Vernalis♦	16½	...	...	-5.2
206½	125	Verona Pharma♦	132½	+ ½	...	-8.8

Industrials

78%	59	Accsys Tech	75½	- 2½	...	...
7973½	5540½	BASF	7345½	- 158	3.3	18.0
9958½	7174½	Bayer DM50	9958½	- 146	2.1	20.6
237½	82½	Biome Tech♦	187½	...	...	-8.9
5½	3%	Etyrol♦	4½	- ¼	...	...
9	6½	Camb Gbl Timber♦	9	...	...	...
109	49½	Cloudcall Group♦	92	- 3	...	-4.6
68½	25	Cosco Grp♦	68½	+ 6½	...	18.6
3938	2819	Croda♦	3924	- 10	1.8	26.7
2½	¾	Gronin Gr♦	2½	...	...	...
1517½	717½	Cropper (James)♦	1517½	...	0.6	37.2
317	180½	Elementis†	295½	- 6	2.3	25.0
780	393½	Evans (M.P.)♦	707½	...	1.4	39.2
1%	¾	Hardide♦	1½	...	...	...
73½	47½	Inspiration Health♦	55	...	...	-17.5
...	...	Intl Ferro Metals†	%	...	...	0.5
5186½	4113	Jardine Math	4771½	- 30	2.4	8.8
3377½	2202½	Jardine Strat	3158½	- 66½	0.7	8.3
3540	2779	Johnson Math	3084	- 59	2.3	25.2
2044	1259	Mondi†	2024	- 17	2.4	18.0
55½	4%	Plant Impact♦	49	- 1½	...	...
133½	90	Plastics Capital♦	117½	...	3.5	34.5
175	115	Robinson♦	135	...	4.0	18.4
417½	231½	Scapa♦	417½	+ 7½	0.4	61.4
455½	355½	Smith (DS)	429½	- 4½	2.9	19.3
928½	721½	Swire Pacific	741½	+ ½	5.0	11.0
17½	3%	Symph Environ♦	15½	+ ¼	...	-6.9
3592½	2854½	Syngenta	3582½	- 518½	2.5	34.4
504½	308½	Synthomer	497½	- 8½	1.7	21.6
3975½	2815½	Takeda Pharm	3975½	+ 80½	3.1	33.9
3½	1½	TyraTech Inc♦	1½	...	...	-1.8
91½	25	Velocys♦	48½	+ 2½	...	-5.7
2020	1392	Victrix	2004	- 40	2.3	20.7
667½	387½	Wynnstay Group♦	630	- 12½	1.8	21.1
320	25%	Zotefoams†	311½	+ 21½	1.8	23.8

Leisure

201	116½	32 Red♦	196½	- ½	1.5	28.3
300½	189	888 Hldgs	275½	- 2½	1.9	49.4
2020	1100	Accesso Tech♦	1997½	...	...	77.0
407½	160	Best of the Best♦	402½	...	0.3	29.6
¾	...	Boxhill Tech♦	¾	...	...	4.0
4853	3259	Carnival	4676	- 34	2.4	14.4
20½	13½	Cathay Intl	13½	- ¼	...	-5.1
100½	71	Gellic♦	96½	...	...	...
740	497½	Ginoworld♦	729½	+ 1	2.4	24.0
396½	305½	Domino's Pizza	316½	+ 4½	2.3	24.5
148½	73½	El Group	144	- 4	...	15.3
1093	930	Fuller Sm A	1045	- 16	1.6	17.8
21½	12½	Gaming Realms♦	13½	- ¾	...	-3.4
122	90½	Goals Socr Cntr♦	112½	...	1.7	...
903½	653	Greene King	738	- 2	3.9	18.1
770½	528½	GVC Holdings	770½	+ ½	...	...
460	392½	Heavitree♦	392½	...	1.8	14.0
215	210	Heavitree A♦	210	...	3.5	7.5
90	75	Hermes Pacific♦	85	+ 5	...	...
4364½	2637½	Intercont Htts♦	4234	- 53	1.9	25.8
645	534	Jackpotjoy	596½	- ½	...	-2.8
162	106	Dalbrokes Coral♦	121	- ½	2.4	-6.9
116	94½	Mandarin Orml†	111½	- 1½	3.2	31.4
157½	129½	Marston's	144	- 1½	4.9	11.4
513	405	Merlin Ent's♦	506½	+ 3	1.3	24.4
475	366½	Millen & Cop	459½	- 9½	1.6	19.9
11½	5%	Minoan Gr♦	9½	...	...	-9.4
299½	217½	Mitch & Butlers	258	- 17	2.9	15.3
9950	7895	PP Betfair†	8500	+ 80	1.5	...
144½	97	Peel Hotels♦	143½	...	1.3	22.7
849	675	PPHE Hotel Grp	846	+ 6	2.3	10.1
3½	¾	Prospect♦	¾	...	...	0.3
195	86½	Punch Taverns	175	...	...	5.9
255	186½	Rank Grp	205½	- 1½	2.8	11.3
427½	256½	Restaurant Grp	340½	- 4½	5.1	...
34½	18	Richoux Grp♦	20	...	...	-2.8
66	45	Rotals♦	61	+ 3	3.4	36.9
20	13½	Specialist Inv Props♦	13½	- 2	...	-2.9
102½	54½	Sportech	92½	- ¾	...	14.8
464½	272½	SPS Group	457½	- 3½	0.9	36.7
185	56	Tasty♦	62	- 2	...	13.5
96½	54½	Thomas Cook	94	+ ¾	...	...
1218	844½	TUI	1130	+ 11	4.2	19.0
2½	¾	Webis Holdings♦	1½	...	...	-8.5
1058	670	Wetherspoon JD†	1021	- 37	1.1	25.5
4356	3391	Whitbread	4126	- 6	2.1	19.0
333½	246½	William Hill†	289	+ 1	4.3	15.3
1362	1180	Young & Co - A♦	1340	+ 7½	1.3	21.8
1094	865	Young & Co - N/V♦	1080	- 12	1.6	17.6

Media

9½	5½	7digital Gr♦	6½	+ ¼	...	-1.6
32½	24½	Aerema Comms♦	27	- ½	7.4	9.6
138	10½	Altitude Group♦	65½	- 1½	...	...
69½	34½	Arcontech Grp♦	68	...	...	21.2
352½	225	Ascential	346½	- 7½	0.4	...
179	148½	Bloomsbury Pub	176½	- 1	3.6	13.8
78	69½	Catalyst Media♦	73½	+ 2	...	...
5½	1½	Cellcast♦	3½	...	...	10.0
135½	94	Cello Group♦	135½	...	2.2	...
57	33½	Centaur Media†	47½	+ ¼	6.3	...
804½	575	Daily Mail	746	- 4½	2.9	13.2

12 month		Company	Price			
High	Low		(p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
257½	240	DCD Media♦	245	...	...	-1.1
157½	11½	Dods Gr♦	13½	...	...	-41.0
125½	88	Eblivity♦	120	...	0.3	23.0
1%	¾	Edenville Energy♦	%	...	...	-0.7
3%	2½	Electric Word♦	3½	...	...	-9.2
255	156½	Entertainmnt One	239½	+ 4½	0.5	46.6
1207	852½	Euronmoney In Inv	1119	+ 29	2.0	46.0
215½	118½	Future	180½	+ ¼	...	-3.0
597½	320	GlobalData♦	490	...	1.0	...
99	58½	Gocompare.com	92	+ 1	...	24.2
361½	145	IG Design Grp♦	335½	+ 10	0.7	21.6
43	26	Immedia Gr♦	30	- 1	...	...
13%	8%	Ind News&Med	11	...	...	8.3
755½	629½	Informa♦	642½	- 7	2.9	27.2
177½	133	ITE Group	164½	- 2½	2.7	...
220½	154	ITV♦	191½	- 1½	3.4	17.2
44	27	Jaywing♦	38	+ ¼	...	83.5
599½	405	Just Eat	586	- 5½	...	...
380	283	M&C Saatchi♦	369½	+ 6½	2.0	...
17½	10½	MBL Group♦	14½	...	...	...
...	...	Mediastest♦	%	...	...	-6.2
1½	¾	Milestone♦	¾	...	...	-0.8
5%	2½	Mirada♦	2½	...	...	-4.2
47	34	Mission Mktg♦	43½	+ ½	4.7	9.0
356½	233½	Newsupermarket	335½	- 1½	2.4	28.9
1131½	822½	News Corp A	980½	- 16½	1.6	...
1174½	846½	News Corp B	1005½	- 19½	1.6	...
455	233½	Next 15 Comms♦	419	- 7	1.0	...
32½	9	Parallel Media Gr♦	24½	- 1½	...	-0.1
975	573	Pearson	695½	+ 8	7.4	-2.4
176	129	Photo-Me	168	...	3.0	21.7
¾	...	Primorus Inv♦	¾	...	...	-1.2
322½	228	Quarto	254	...	4.2	6.9
...	...	Reabold Resources♦	%	...	...	...
1%	...	REACT Gr♦	%	...	...	...
1625	1192	RELX PLC♦	1625	- 12	20	29.1
4302	3173	Rightmove†	4225	- 6	1.0	30.9
5006	750½	Sky	998½	+ 1½	3.2	27.7
107½	17½	SpaceandPeople♦	37½	...	5.9	11.2
227	3½	Stratim Global Res♦	1½	...	...	-0.4
42%	304	STV Group†	376	+ 6	2.9	11.7
1025	343½	System1 Group♦	1012½	- 5	0.4	40.5
296½	241½	Tarsus Grp	292½	+ 6½	2.9	42.3
70½	53	Totally♦	54½	- 3	...	-6.4
125½	73½	Trinity Mirror†	107	- 2	4.8	4.4
2511½	1824½	21st Cent Fox Inc A	209½	- 34½	1.3	15.8
2463½	1867½	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2062½	- 26½	1.4	15.7
5377½	580½	UBM†	699	- 18	3.4	34.7
¾	...	Vela Tech♦	¾	...	...	-2.7
4%	2½	Vitesse Media♦	2½	...	...	...
280½	231½	Wilmington	257	+ ½	3.0	...
1921	1476	WPP	1711	- 6	2.8	15.8
287½	162	YouGov♦	270	...	0.5	79.4
1%	¾	Zinc Media♦	1	...	...	0.3
394	240	ZPG	352½	- 5	1.1	40.0

Natural resources

599	305½	Acacia Mining†	438	+ 11½	0.8	12.9
27	10½	AFC Energy♦	11½	- ¾	...	-6.3
¾	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	¾	...	...	-7.5
1	...	Alexander Mining♦	...	...	...	-0.3
1	¾	Altona Enegy♦	¾	...	...	-85.0
117½	71½	Alumina	105½	- ¾	6.4	19.8
619½	406½	Amec Foster	557	+ 5	3.8	-4.0
32	20	Amerisur Res♦	25½	- ½	...	...
7½	¾	Aminex	4½	...	...	...
15½	2%	Amur Mins Corp♦	6	...	...	-6.2
...	...	Andalas Energy♦	...	...	...	-0.1
64	14½	Andes Energia♦	57½	- ¾	...	...
2789½	1903½	Anglo Amer Plat	1903½	+ 35½	...	...
1409½	579½	Ang Am	1078	- 11½	...	10.8
33½	9%	Anglo Asian Mng♦	18½	+ 1	...	-7.8
883½	394½	Antofagasta†	805½	- 1½	0.3	82.2
1½	¾	Arian Silver♦	¾	...	...	-0.3
2%	1½	Ariana Res♦	1½	...	...	-8.7
4%	1%	Armadae Cap♦	1½	+ ¼	...	-1.7
2½	¾	Asa Resource♦	1½	...	...	-9.7
5%	1½	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	4½	- ¼	...	-6.1
164½	77½	Atlatlaya Mine♦	134	...	...	-34.4
123	42½	Avocet♦	48½	- ¾	...	-4.3
¾	...	Baron Oil♦	¾	...	...	-0.1
15½	3%	Beowulf Mining♦	8½	...	...	...
3%	1	Bezzant Res♦	1½	...	...	-0.1
1480½	789½	BHP Billiton	1192	- 7	4.8	...
8%	3%	BMR Group♦	8½	- ½	...	-6.1
5	1½	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2½	...	...	-6.7
22½	8	Bougainville	18½	- 3½	...	...
36½	19½	BowlLeven♦	30½	+ ½	...	-1.0
519½	353	BP†	470½	+ 1½	6.5	...
¾	...	Cadence Min♦	¾	...	...	-9.5
11	6½	Cadogan Petrol	9½	- ¾	...	-4.6
243	171½	Calm Energy	197½	...	...	...
143	63½	Caledonia Mining♦	97	- 4.3	6.3	
12	8½	Caspian Sunrise♦	9½	- ¼	...	-8.2
190½	95½	Centamin	164½	+ 4½	8.4	12.7
254½	138	Cent Asia Metals♦	219½	+ ¼	6.9	11.7
2%	¾	Central Rand Gold♦	¾	...	...	-0.1
22½	5%	Charat Gold♦	21	+ ¼	...	...
18½	5%	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	13½	...	...	-5.6
33½	21	China Nonferrous Gold Ltd♦	23½	- ¾	...	...
5%	¾	Clontarf Energy♦	¾	...	...	-6.5
5%	2%	Coal of Africa♦	3	...	...	-3.3
88½	46	Condor Gold♦	60½	...	...	-9.3
741½	1½	Connemara Mining♦	1½	...	...	-5.5
2%	29½	DRDGold	29½	+ ¾	0.3	33.2
3%	¾	ECR Minerals♦	1½	...	...	-0.9
9	1½	Empyrean Energy♦	3½	...	...	-1.8
55	22½	EnQuest	38	+ ¼	...	2.1
1	¾	Eurasia Mining♦	¾	...	...	-4.4
8½	3%	Euro Oil&Gas♦	7½	+ ¼	...	...
273	109	Evraz	188½	- 5½	...	...
174½	64½	Exillon Energy	131½	- 3½	...	6.5
111½	61½	Faro Petrol♦	96½	- 1½	...	-9.2

NOBLE CALEDONIA



PUGLIA & BEYOND

A voyage from Sicily to Croatia aboard the Panorama II – 22nd June to 1st July 2018



Here is the perfect voyage for those who love Italy, travelling in the company of a small group of like-minded travellers and sailing aboard small, private yacht-like vessels with a varied programme of interesting visits ashore. Sailing between Sicily and Dubrovnik, our itinerary will take us off the beaten track to many places that are beyond the reach of the mega-cruise ships. The centrepiece of our voyage is our four days spent sailing around the heel of Italy and discovering Puglia's many gems. Based on its strategic location, the region was colonised, invaded and conquered for centuries with each dynasty leaving its mark. From prehistoric dwellings and traditional trulli abodes to splendid Baroque architecture and 15th century palazzos, we will explore the region with local guides. Our voyage ends in the beautiful, azure waters of the Croatian coast with our calls in Split and Korcula before we end with an overnight mooring in the pearl of the Adriatic, Dubrovnik where you may choose to extend your stay before returning to London.

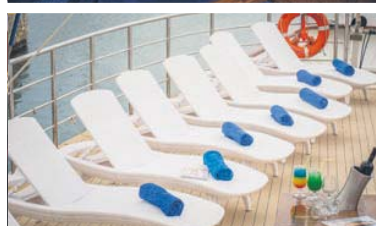
Panorama II

We are delighted to have chartered the two-masted Panorama II for a series of cruises through the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Aegean in 2018. Launched in 2004, fully renovated in 2012 and upgraded again in 2015, she is a 164 foot motor sailer accommodating just 49 guests. If you find large resort style vessels accommodating many thousands of passengers attractive then of course this isn't the vessel for you. However, if you prefer an informal and warm atmosphere more akin to a private yacht combined with an itinerary dedicated to both discovery and relaxation then you need look no further. All the cabins on board Panorama II are designed for comfort and have a nautical feel with light fabrics and wood trimmings. Cabins range in size from 97 to 173 square feet and those located on the Upper and Main Decks are equipped with windows, while those on the Lower Deck have portholes. The public areas include a main lounge and bar with comfortable sofas, a restaurant located on the Lower Deck and the Upper Deck al fresco dining area where meals can be enjoyed when weather permits. The Upper Deck provides a generous semi covered or sun exposed space with sun loungers and chairs, ideal for relaxation and fantastic views. The menu on board is Greek and international, with a focus on local specialties and during the cruise we have included the opportunity for you to dine ashore independently allowing you to experience the local flavours.

The Itinerary in Brief

Day 1 London to Catania, Italy. Fly by scheduled flight. On arrival, transfer to the Panorama II and embark. Enjoy Welcome Drinks and Dinner this evening as we sail to Syracuse where we moor overnight.

Day 2 Syracuse. Syracuse was founded by the Greeks in 734 BC and by the 5th century was a political and military power throughout the Mediterranean and rivalled Athens as the largest and most beautiful city in the Greek world. On leaving the vessel we visit the Neapolis Archaeological Park where we find a well preserved Greek theatre with seats carved from limestone. Paradise Quarry, now an attractive garden and orange grove, was the primary source of that limestone and is the site of the curious 'Dionysus' Ear', a vast grotto with an amplifying resonance. We will continue to explore the island of Ortigia where we find the Temple of Apollo, considered to be Sicily's most ancient Doric temple and the Baroque Cathedral, erected over the remains of the Temple of Minerva. After lunch on board enjoy an afternoon at leisure to explore independently.



For full details on this holiday call us today on **020 7752 0000** for your copy of our brochure.

SMALL SHIP CRUISING WITH NOBLE CALEDONIA

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Day 3 Crotone. After a morning at sea we arrive in Calabria and the port of Crotone which is on the site of the ancient Greek City of Kroton. Whilst little remains of the Greek city it was one of the most important settlements of Magna Graecia, where Pythagoras set up a school in 530 BC and whose athletes were very successful at the Olympic Games. We will take a scenic drive inland this afternoon to Santa Severina, one of Italy's prettiest towns overlooking the Neto River valley. We will explore the majestic Carafa Castle which was built by the Normans in 1076 and is surrounded by strong, crenellated walls with a moat on three sides and contains intricate underground labyrinths and stables, with the remains of Medieval frescoes. Also see the cathedral the beautiful Byzantine baptistery and a chance to wander the town's tangled streets. As we return to the ship we will stop at one of the vineyards that produce famous Calabrian wine, Ciro, for a tasting accompanied by typical Calabrian food.

Day 4 Taranto. Today we arrive in Puglia for our morning tour which will take us into Basilicata as we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sassi di Matera (stones of Matera). Situated in the old town of Matera, the Sassi are prehistoric dwellings dug into the rock itself and are suspected to be some of the first human settlements in Italy. The site comprises over 1,000 buildings including houses, churches, shops, workshops and monasteries covering over 1,000 hectares and we will learn more about the history of the town on a walking tour of the labyrinthine streets. Return to the ship for lunch and enjoy a free afternoon in

Taranto. Return to the ship for dinner and sail this evening.

Day 5 Otranto & Lecce. From the port of Otranto we will drive to Lecce, often referred to as 'The Florence of the South' with its amazing collection of Baroque architecture including an abundance of churches and noble palaces decorated with the 'Leccese stone', a chalky stone ranging in colours which became the local style due to its ease to work with. A guided tour will include a visit to the beautifully decorated Santa Croce Basilica and Piazza Duomo, considered one of the finest and most impressive squares in southern Italy. After the tour, there will be an exclusive, private visit to the 15th century Palazzo Tamborino-Cezzi. The owner of the palazzo will personally take us on a tour, sharing interesting stories and anecdotes regarding his family and the palazzo itself. Enjoy a light lunch of local specialities before a concert of traditional music of the Salento region called La Pizzica, a popular Italian folk dance, originally from the Salento peninsula which later spread throughout the Puglia region. Return to Otranto for some free time to explore the town before sailing this evening.

Day 6 Monopoli. Today we drive into the Puglian countryside which is scattered with 'trulli', limestone dwellings built with dome or conical roofs. We will enjoy a pleasant walk in Alberobello, a fairy-tale trulli village and a UNESCO World Heritage Site and see the St Anthony Church also built in trullo style. Afterwards we visit 'Cantina Albea' and its wine museum, home to pictures and old instruments used in the past for the production of wine and where we will enjoy a

wine tasting along with a talk on the wine production. Return to the ship for lunch and this afternoon is free to return to the old town to explore independently or maybe take a swim from one of the nearby beaches.

Day 7 Manfredonia. Our final call in Italy is on the Gargano Promontory, a wonderful mix of beaches, lagoons and mountains. For centuries this region was isolated and modern development was thwarted when the peninsula became a national park in 1991. This morning we will follow the pilgrim trail to Monte Sant'Angelo where it is claimed archangel Michael made four appearances in the 5th century making this one of the earliest Christian shrines in Europe. We will visit the cave church dedicated to St. Michael, the Medieval baptistery 'Tomba di Rotari', and the church of Santa Maria Maggiore. Return to the ship for lunch and a leisurely afternoon on board sailing for Croatia.

Day 8 Split, Croatia. We have a full day in Split and this morning's walking tour will include the Diocletian Palace, St Dulmus Cathedral and the treasury and the Diocletian's cellars. Split, the second largest city in Croatia and 'the capital of Dalmatia', has gradually developed around the palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian which was built more than 1700 years ago by the emperor as his retirement villa. Much of this large building is well preserved and the palace contains Split's old town within its walls, making it the only Roman palace that has been continuously inhabited since Roman times. This afternoon is free to explore independently and tonight you have the chance to dine ashore at one of the many seafront restaurants on the Riva.

Day 9 Korcula. This morning we will call into Korcula and enjoy a guided walk along Korcula's crooked streets to the elegant squares which are flanked with Palaces of the old nobility and visit the house believed to be the birth place of Marco Polo. You will have the opportunity to choose from one of the local restaurants for lunch and afterwards there will be free time to explore further or maybe take a swim from one of the nearby beaches. Spend the late afternoon and evening cruising to Dubrovnik where we will moor overnight.

Day 10 Dubrovnik to London. Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Post-Cruise Dubrovnik Extension

If you would like to spend some time in Dubrovnik after your cruise we are offering a two night stay at a four star hotel. After disembarking, our extension will include a city tour before transferring to our hotel. The remainder of the time will be at leisure for you to enjoy all the magnificent city has to offer. Full details can be viewed online.



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Law



Ian Brady being escorted to court in 1965. He was determined to control his media image, writing to several reporters

My many letters from the Moors Murderer

Imprisoned in a high-security hospital, Ian Brady read the coverage of his case and wrote hundreds of pages to journalists, **Brendan Pittaway** recalls

Exchanging letters with a man widely considered to be the most reviled murderer in British criminal history is not necessarily among the first tasks on which many young reporters would look to found a career in journalism.

Nevertheless, as a relatively new recruit to a freelance news agency in Liverpool in the late 1980s, I was asked to pick up an ongoing correspondence with Ian Brady. He had been incarcerated since 1985 in Park Lane Hospital (later renamed Ashworth) on Merseyside — an innocuous name for a top security facility that was home to some of the country's most disturbed and violent criminals.

As became clear over the next four years, he was very much aware of how fascinated by his exploits the media and public remained. From contacts within the hospital, the agency that I worked for had cultivated a series of stories about Brady's activities and the conditions in which he was held.

Brady's consumption of coverage related to his case prompted letter-writing to many correspondents, but it appears that letters to me were among the more prolific. I received 36 letters — some quite short and curt, others stretching to more than a dozen pages. Some were sent months apart, while he would write as many as four in a fortnight if he felt particularly agitated.

They contained a wealth of detail about his crimes and the reopened investigation that led to the recovery of two of the victims' bodies from Saddleworth Moor, and opinion — on police, politics and the attempts of his accomplice, Myra Hindley, to secure parole.

As someone who was as fixed on his

legal rights as his media image, Brady kept up his string of letters with the full knowledge of his lawyers. The longest-standing was the influential civil rights solicitor Benedict Birnberg, who also represented Derek Bentley, hanged in 1953 for the murder of PC Sidney Miles during a botched burglary.

In addition, "for local fire-fighting", as Brady put it, he retained the services of the well-known Liverpool firm E Rex

Brady knew the public remained fascinated by his exploits

Makin & Co. Robin Makin is his executor and was with him two hours before he died.

Brady's script was positively metro-nomic — tightly packed, neat and slanting from left to right throughout. Only when referring to Hindley's parole attempts, or criticisms of what he believed were official obstructions to his involvement in the police investigation, did his writing alter. The handwriting would lurch upright, with words almost spilling into one other instead of their usual regular pattern.

Just as he was controlled in how he expressed himself over more than 150 pages of correspondence, he was eager to retain control of his dealings with media and law enforcement. He was particularly aware of the desperation of all the families of his victims. In particular, Winifred Johnson — the mother of Keith Bennett — wanted Brady to disclose where he had buried the 12-year-old boy, whose body is yet to be

found. While he described a willingness to assist with further searches of the moors, he was conscious of wanting to be in charge of when and how help might be provided.

In one November 1989 letter he explained: "I request that you forward a copy of it [the letter] to my solicitor . . . in short, I do not wish any third party to read this letter and thus break the security precautions I have taken re confidentiality." His precautions extended to taping each envelope shut to make official attempts to open the correspondence obvious. Beneath the seal, every letter was dated and signed with his initials "ISB": Ian Stewart Brady.

Various reporters, including me, were also contacted by his solicitors if it was thought that might help his case. Despite my attempts, Brady never gave up the one piece of information that everyone wanted: the whereabouts of Keith's body. Apart from indicating a desire to undergo further questioning under sodium pentothal, a so-called truth drug, and suggesting that he recalled where the boy had been buried — "The area of the site is in Yorkshire, not Lancashire" — the crucial information remained in his grasp.

He was, in that regard, playing something of a game. "Many other things are in the pipeline but you'll see for yourself quite soon . . . Best wishes, I (S-B)."

Now that he is dead, it is probable that the answer to the horrific half-century riddle lies not in the case files in the Birnberg and Makin offices, but in chance and the shifting moorland whose name will for ever be linked with Brady, Hindley and the killings of five young children.

Judges' rulings on issues bald and hairy are a cut above the rest

David Pannick, QC



Toupee or not toupee. That was the question decided by the High Court of New Zealand in March in one of the oddest human rights cases of the year.

Phillip Smith is serving a life sentence for a murder committed in 1995. He had sexually abused a boy, tracked down the family when they moved away, and fatally stabbed the boy's father. Smith is balding. In 2012, he sought and obtained approval from the prison authorities to wear a custom-made hairpiece because, he said, "he had ongoing issues with self-esteem and confidence". He also claimed that the wig would "protect his scalp from sun exposure and prevent heat loss through his head in winter".

In 2014, Smith was given temporary release for three days to prepare him for life in the community if he were to be granted parole. He absconded to Rio de Janeiro. The authorities there deported him back to New Zealand. He was reclassified as a maximum security prisoner and his toupee was taken away. Smith brought a claim under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 complaining that having his appearance mocked was "one of the lowest points in my life. I felt totally belittled, degraded and humiliated."

Justice Edwin Wylie held that "the wearing of a hairpiece by Mr Smith was an action taken by him in the exercise of his right to freedom of expression" as protected in the Bill of Rights. Because he was "trying to affect the perception that others would have of him", his wearing of a hairpiece "had expressive content".

The question, then, was whether the prison authorities had good reason to pull away the rug from over his head. They contended that Smith was now a high-risk prisoner after his attempt to abscond. The bald truth was that the glue, tape and chemical remover that he needed to maintain his hairpiece and stick it to his head "could be used in locks or over cameras, which could threaten the security and good order of the prison".

Justice Wylie did not decide whether the concerns of the prison authorities were justified. Instead he granted Smith a declaration that the prison had acted unlawfully by failing properly to consider Smith's human rights. The judge remitted the issue back to the prison authorities so the matter could be looked at again. That is an erroneous approach in law. As Lord Hoffmann said for the appellate committee of the House of Lords in 2006, human rights law "is concerned with substance, not procedure. It confers no right to have the decision made in any particular way. What matters is the

result." Those making administrative decisions "cannot be expected [to have] textbooks on human rights law at their elbows". Smith's claim should have succeeded only if the judge rejected the prison's security concerns about the glue, tape and chemical remover.

Smith's case can usefully be contrasted with that of a much hairier litigant. Leung Kwok-hung is a prominent opposition politician in Hong Kong, widely known as "Long Hair". He was sentenced to four weeks' imprisonment for criminal offences committed during a protest. While detained, his hair was cut short by reason of a standing order that applies to all male prisoners "for the purpose of health and cleanliness" while allowing female prisoners to keep their hairstyle if they wish.

In January, Mr Justice Thomas Au put on his judicial wig, refrained from quoting Shakespeare in *The Comedy of Errors* — "there's many a man hath more hair than wit" — and gave a compelling judgment that to turn Long Hair into Short Hair was unlawful under the Sex Discrimination Ordinance and by reason of the Basic Law right to equality. The difference in treatment

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between male and female prisoners was based purely on their sex.

In a judgment on sex discrimination in 1979, Lord Denning commented in the Court of Appeal: "A woman's hair is her crowning glory, so it is said. She does not like it disturbed: especially when she has just had a 'hair-do'." As the Hong Kong case shows, there are also men for whom their hair is their crowning glory. The prospects of success in an appeal by the commissioner of correctional services for Hong Kong are about the same as the likelihood of Long Hair wearing a toupee.

The most extraordinary haircut case remains that decided in the US state of Michigan by Judge Willard L Mikesell. In 1976, the Supreme Court of Michigan suspended Judge Mikesell from the bench for 18 months without pay for a number of disciplinary offences. They included reducing the bail bond required of a defendant from \$10,000 to \$500 on condition that the defendant had "his hair cut in a fashion similar" to that of the judge. The law report does not record Judge Mikesell's hairstyle, but the defendant described the result as humiliating.

The author is a practising barrister at Blackstone Chambers, a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford, and a crossbench peer in the House of Lords



Niqabs in court: when and why judges ask defendants to uncover their faces
thetimes.co.uk



Web of claims after cyberattack

Jonathan Ames

As NHS managers and some UK business executives rush to patch their IT systems after last week's global ransomware attack, many will be chuntering to themselves: whom can we sue?

There has been no shortage of advice of the thinly veiled commercially self-interested variety from law firms. Clyde & Co, the City of London insurance specialist, was quick to counsel that if companies do not "take cybersecurity seriously and have the appropriate risk mitigation plans in place they could be sued by clients and suppliers impacted if their systems are locked down and their business is affected as a result".

Seek legal advice regarding the tricky issues around directors and officer liability was the clear message. But while confidently advising on the merits of forward planning, lawyers have been less certain regarding the legal remedies available to those businesses left reeling after the WannaCry attack.

To their credit, some lawyers have been disarmingly frank in their uncertainty. "There will be a large global investigation into these attacks, and it is probable that some of the perpetrators will be identified," says Joe Hancock, a cybersecurity expert at the London law firm Mishcon de Reya, before warning: "It is unlikely that all those responsible will be held to account."

Paul Glass, a cybersecurity partner at the City law firm Taylor Wessing, is equally blunt. "It's difficult to predict what litigation may come out of the WannaCry cryptoware because there is still a lot we won't know about where it came from and how it spread," he says.

There is no doubt that cyber-risk is rising and that WannaCry is potentially the first in a wave of attacks on businesses and public bodies. Alexander Larsen, a cybersecurity expert at Baldwin Consulting, a risk management adviser, points to a report showing that the likelihood of attacks increased four-fold between 2015 and 2016. Larsen says: "2017 was expected to be worse and this recent incident only highlights the frequency and severity of these attacks."

With an eye on potential litigation, there will be jangled nerves at the suppliers of outsourced technology services. "This is definitely a situation where some people will be caught with their trousers down," says one City law firm cyberexpert.



OLI SCARFF/APP/GETTY IMAGES

A ransomware attack that struck the NHS has raised many questions of liability

"The most obvious potential claims," says Simon Shooter, a partner at the law firm Bird & Bird, "are in contract against external suppliers of IT security and, in this case, their failure to do so."

Even that route is not likely to be straightforward. Contracts and cyber-attack insurance policies may not in all cases be unquestionably clear, warns Hermes Marangos, a partner at the London firm Signature Litigation. "Disputes may arise because the relevant wording in some policies excludes those losses which have even a remote connection with terrorist activity or counter-terrorism measures."

Generally, says Marangos, terrorism

Exclusive to members

Edward Garnier My life in the Commons Privilege Closing a dangerous loophole

thetimes.co.uk

exclusions should not apply to a cyber-attack "as there is no violent component". However, "insurers may argue

that the exclusion does apply, and that special cybercover needs to be purchased in order for insurance to bite." That creates issues, not least questions over whether cybercover is invalidated where the insured has not put in place or maintained adequate protections.

Cross-infection is a potential trigger for litigation. "If a business is infected by malware that spreads from another business's networks, there are potential claims against the business from which the malware came," says Glass. "But they face a number of hurdles. The legal mechanisms aren't really suited to this situation, and proving things like duty of care will depend on the facts of each case, but will rarely be easy."

Lawyers note that few claims of that type have come before the English courts, and Glass says: "I can't see that changing as a result of WannaCry."

Beefed-up regulation is one reaction expected from governments around the world, not least relating to what Hancock describes as "crypto currencies such as Bitcoin and anonymous payment mechanisms that allow criminals to profit from such attacks".

An irony does not escape Hancock though, who says that those mechanisms "are often the very thing that also allows new digital businesses to thrive".

Lawyers suggest that another source of potential disputes around cyber-attacks is wafting its way across the Atlantic. Shooter points to "a swathe of shareholder actions in the US". These lawsuits involve claimants who have invested in companies that have gone on to suffer serious cyberattacks that have resulted in considerable financial loss. Shareholders are targeting directors with legal action, claiming that they have breached their fiduciary duties by negligently not taking precautions against malware or ransomware.

"Several claims are still running in the US," says Shooter. "There have been no rulings yet, but the view is that it is only a matter of time before a judgment goes against a director. And then there is the principle of what happens in America will soon happen here."

Times Law

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Law Diary
Edward Fennell



Paris calling

Stéphane Puel, the managing partner of **Gide Loyrette Nouel**, the Paris and London law firm, was quick with an effusive welcome to the French president. "The election of Emmanuel Macron is undoubtedly excellent news for French business," says Puel, creating "a great climate of confidence. Of all the potential candidates, he was the most favorable to Europe, and his major concerns are business-oriented and, above all, support to Paris as a financial centre." As minister for economic affairs, Puel added, Macron promoted legislation for simplifying and opening up of legal services. *En garde, Londres.*

Private splits

Revenge porn is the new common weapon in break-ups, according to **Farrer & Co's** latest briefing, *Inside Reputation*. Alicia Mendonca, an associate at Farrer, observes: "It is sadly becoming more common for revenge porn to feature in break-ups." Porn artists used to be exotically disreputable; nowadays it seems that we are all at it. Within a generation we have seen — rather like DIY home improvement and wine-making — a democratisation of porn. And, says Mendonca: "The effects can be devastating." Exactly the same as DIY home improvement and wine-making. When it comes to what Angela Rafferty, QC, of **Red Lion Chambers**, calls "dick pics", I say leave it to the experts.

Quality v quantity

LexisNexis's Bellwether Report 2017, *The Art of Success*, reports an existential gap emerging between expanding large law firms and other successful independent firms — and it's the former that carry a health warning. "Disenchanted by the way that larger law firms operate, successful independent lawyers are determined to create a healthier working culture in their own firms," says Jon Whittle, the market development director at **LexisNexis UK**. "Their firms' ethos, driven by things like bespoke service, good staff morale, fairer pay and realistic targets, is delivering both commercial success and job satisfaction."

Sir Henry Brooke fêted

The former appeal court judge Sir Henry Brooke won warm praise from President Nishani of Albania this week for work helping to reform their justice system. Sir Henry was made a knight of the Order of Skanderbeg — the highest award that can go to a non-Albanian citizen. Skanderbeg is the Albanian national hero and the honour is rarely awarded to British citizens and never before to a judge. Sir Henry directed the Slyn Foundation's work in Albania for six years over 18 visits. fennell.edward@yahoo.com

Lawyer of the week Susan Aslan

Susan Aslan, a founding partner of ACK Media Law, acted for Nadhim Zahawi, who was the Conservative MP for Stratford-on-Avon — now candidate — and who was awarded £200,000 libel damages against Iran-backed English-language Press TV over a false claim that he helped to fund Islamic State.

What were the main challenges in this case? Getting the libellous allegations taken down off social media — they came in two waves, both politically motivated. We had to be pragmatic about what to target to try and ensure that the links to the allegations which

originated in Iran came down first. Serving the proceedings on the Iranian news network in Iran was problematic; the official consulate method has broken down and proceedings would take years to be served, if ever. We obtained an order from the court to serve them by email and courier.

What's the best decision you've taken? The best, but also scariest, was to start this specialist media law practice with Sue Charles in 2008 — just as the banking crash happened.

Who has

inspired you? My mother — a tough fighter for what is right. All through my school years she would write letters to the school, to *The Times*, and to those who had made seemingly arbitrary decisions — she frequently changed minds and attitudes. She still does this at 86.

What's the oddest thing that has happened to you? Being told by George Carman, QC, that he had asked me to go and open an anonymous package that had been delivered during a libel trial because he thought it might have been a bomb. In fact, it was a diary which won us the case. He wasn't joking.

What's the best advice you've received? Don't ever be tempted to

cut corners to win a case. Keep your integrity.

Which three qualities should a lawyer have? Being able to see the bigger picture — you may win a case, but will it deliver what the client wants and needs? And focus and common sense.

What law would you enact? A law requiring a second referendum on leaving the EU once the terms of exit are apparent. For obvious reasons.

For what would you like to be remembered? I'm not thinking about that sort of thing right now!

Linda Tsang
l_tsang@hotmail.com



Turmeric+ is in a different league

Olympic physiotherapists and premier league football coaches are now recommending turmeric as the best way to keep the body's joints in lifelong working order. Turmeric+ is being used to reduce the risk of inflammation caused by intensive training, and for treating damaged joints without exposing elite athletes to the problems caused by standard over-the-counter painkillers.

The supplement has already been used by soccer stars from FC Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao, and is being tried out at Barcelona's Olympic Training Centre as well as in other training centres in Britain and France. "We are always looking for something that's better than paracetamol or aspirin, which don't work very well and cause side effects," says Francek Drobnic, head of research at the Barcelona centre.

The powerful effect of the plant extract on joint health has also been welcomed by doctors, who are concerned people are risking their health because of long-term painkiller use.

The rise of turmeric came about because many scientists noticed that populations with high intakes of turmeric as a curry spice have lower rates of arthritis and joint damage, and they began to investigate.

The key element of turmeric called curcumin, comes from the underground stems of the turmeric plant.

These stems called rhizomes, are boiled, dried and then ground up to produce the medicinal powder, which is also prized by Asian cooks for its unique peppery flavour.



Scientific studies found that turmeric works by interrupting the chemical pathways and signaling mechanisms involved in joint inflammation and arthritis. These same mechanisms are also being targeted by pharmaceutical companies racing to produce a much more expensive drug that does the same thing as turmeric.

Until now it has been difficult to boost the body's absorption of natural turmeric sufficiently for it to have a really rapid effect on the aches and pains that are symptoms of joint damage.

That has all changed with the launch of Turmeric+, a formulation supported by Scientists in Cambridge that combines turmeric with another plant extract called soy lethicin. This combination which now has 22 published clinical research papers to confirm its effect, is 30 times better absorbed or 'bioavailable,' than natural turmeric alone.

Longer term studies are expected to show that the Turmeric+ formulation is the most effective treatment for joint health currently available.



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What our customers say

"Have such a difference in my knees since starting to take Turmeric"

Maureen

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David

"This product is amazing, I felt the benefit so quickly I can't tell you how much better I feel"

Susan



Mischievous actor who played Catweazle
Geoffrey Bayldon
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Register

Obituaries

Nina Lowry

Judge known for her tough sentencing and what Spike Milligan called her 'emotional insight', particularly in crimes against women

Nina Lowry earned a reputation as a tough sentencer, particularly for crimes against women. Days after a different judge imposed what were widely considered to be soft sentences in the Ealing vicarage rape case of 1987, Lowry jailed a bogus priest for 16 years. He had laced the chocolate drinks of "young virgins", as they were described in court, who had thought that they were attending a prayer meeting. He then raped them. The Conservative MP Geoffrey Dickens welcomed the sentence, saying: "It has taken a woman judge to do at last what the nation has been crying out for for years."

Lowry, a woman of strong personality, was widely praised for the way in which she handled such cases, and especially for explaining to juries the extended trauma that women who had been raped were going through by having to relive their ordeals. She also ensured that witnesses were comfortable and had adequate breaks.

In 1993 she ordered that the ban on naming two teenage boys who had raped a 13-year-old girl should be lifted. "I do not think it right or in the public interest that the identity of two of the perpetrators of this crime should be cloaked in anonymity," she said. "In my view, the matter should be out in the open in the community where they live."

Helena Kennedy, QC, now Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws, once said that Lowry was "one of the few members of the judiciary who recognises the seriousness of rape and gives it its proper place at the double-figure end of the sentencing range".

On another occasion Spike Milligan wrote to congratulate her on a 12-year sentence that she had imposed in a rape case in 1988. "Perhaps being a female gave you a better emotional insight," he added.

It was not only men who received tough sentences. In 1988 Lowry jailed for 12 years a 50-year-old mother who not only sexually assaulted her own sons, but had also encouraged them to carry out similar acts on others. "The facts of this case are so dreadful and so evil that precedence and previous cases give me no assistance in making my decision," Lowry said.

On another occasion she sent a hairdresser for psychiatric treatment after he haunted hospitals pretending to be a doctor — although she acknowledged that there was a risk of him acquiring further medical knowledge and posing as a psychiatrist. He described her as "very kind", although less appreciative was a female mugger given 75 hours' community service, who called Lowry a "bitch".

She was born Noreen Margaret Collins in London in 1925, the eldest of two daughters of John Collins, a lapsed Catholic who had won an MC during the First World War, and his wife, Hilda, (née Gregory), a former secretary. Joan, her younger sister who later became a speech therapist, struggled to pronounce her name, calling her Neena, which was eventually formalised as Nina. The family moved to Ilkley, in the Yorkshire Dales, where Nina's earliest memories were of a nearby bluebell wood. She swam for her county and was a fine cricketer — as long as someone



Nina Lowry, pictured here in the Fifties, was the only woman judge at the Old Bailey until as recently as the mid-Eighties

else was doing the running. Often a rebel, she recalled graduating from sliding down the stairs of her preparatory school, which was naturally forbidden, to drawing the delicate parts of the male anatomy. When one particularly fine example came to light, her mother was summoned. Upon being presented with the evidence, she declared it to be rather good. The headmistress had to agree.

At Bedford High School, where she was head girl, one teacher ordered her to learn reams of poetry by way of punishment for some misdemeanour. Lowry devoured the lines and could

'The facts of this case are so evil that precedence gives me no assistance'

still recall much of it near the end of her life. She considered a career on the stage, whether acting or directing, but eventually settled on the theatre of crime.

She was the first member of her family to go to university, although falling foul of a wartime regulation by six days meant she was unable to take up a place at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. Instead she read law at the University of Birmingham where she threw herself into student life. She was called to the Bar in 1948, joining Gray's Inn.

Although she came joint second in her Bar exams, she struggled to find chambers willing to accept a female barrister. One day, while discussing this with Captain Holdan, the Gray's Inn

librarian, she was overheard by Charles "Duke" du Cann, the father of the future MP Edward du Cann, who offered her a pupillage in his set.

In 1950 she married Edward Gardner, a fellow barrister who became the Conservative MP for Billericay. They had a son, Stephen, a journalist, who died from bowel cancer in 2009, and a daughter, Sally, who is a novelist and survives her.

The marriage was an unhappy one and was dissolved in 1962. The next year she married Richard "Dick" Lowry, who also became a judge. He noticed her getting off a bus in Fleet Street and was smitten by her "exceptional legs". He died in 2001. They had a daughter, Emma, who became a barrister and survives her parents.

Lowry was not going to allow motherhood to stand in the way of her career on the southeastern circuit, where she practised as Miss Nina Collins. She made the papers in 1954 by wheeling her 11-month-old daughter to Southend court. According to the *Evening Standard*, she "left her outside in the pram and went in to argue a case". The child was watched over by police officers and witnesses at the court.

Her work was mixed and varied. When a tour of Italy for a troupe of girl dancers in 1961 turned into a fiasco, with bogus contracts and

missing dates, she presented the prosecution's case at Bow Street magistrates' court, while a motorist who injured six people by driving at high speed through Portobello market was faced with overwhelming evidence delivered crisply by Lowry at the Old Bailey.

In 1967 she was appointed metropolitan stipendiary magistrate, only the third woman to hold such a position. A profile of her workload in *The Times* in 1969 described how "the learned magistrate must deal with the legal formalities of applications for drink licences; child maintenance; statements on oath by people who have lost their pawn tickets; and medical men who

desire to recite their history before a justice to satisfy the Australian law on immigrant doctors".

She also heard cases such as that against a retired brigadier who walked through the open door of a house and stole a valuable cigarette box; the Spanish mothers who sent their children shoplifting in Kensington High Street; and the West Ham supporter, something of a recidivist, who used a steel-capped boot to kick a Chelsea fan during a pre-Christmas match in 1974. "You have been dealt with on a number of occasions with the utmost leniency," Lowry said, adding: "The time has come when leniency has ended."

She was appointed judge in 1976 and was joined on the bench a year later by her husband. As recently as 1987 she was the only woman judge at the Old Bailey, and one of only 16 female

'Fools were dispatched with a razor-sharp riposte from which few recovered'

circuit judges in England and Wales, compared with 373 men. That position has gradually changed, and last year a Judicial Diversity Statistics report said that in April 2016, 28 per cent of judges were female, although the proportion is significantly greater among the younger judges.

There were not only sexual offences cases. A former detective who spiked jars of baby food and tried to extort £3.75 million from Heinz was jailed for 17 years, while Colin Hatch, who killed a seven-year-old boy while on parole for a previous attack, was told in 1994 that he would never be freed. "Life imprisonment should mean what it says, namely imprisonment for life," Lowry told him.

She could undoubtedly be intimidating, and never suffered fools, whether gladly or otherwise. "They were dispatched with a razor-sharp riposte from which few recovered and none forgot," said her daughter Emma. Once, while on holiday, her husband was taken ill and waited far longer than necessary for room service. Furious, she strode into the middle of the crowded hotel restaurant, clapped her hands above her head and bellowed for attention. The response from staff was prompt.

Lowry was made a freeman of the City of London in 1985 and retired from the bench a decade later. She spent the next five years as a member of the criminal injuries compensation board, which she greatly enjoyed.

Throughout their married lives the Lowrys, who were supremely liberal in outlook, travelled extensively, visiting Africa, Asia and South America. They also enjoyed many happy evenings at theatres such as the Old Vic — a suitable alternative to the drama of the court room.

Nina Lowry, judge, was born on September 6, 1925. She died of renal failure on March 30, 2017, aged 91



With her husband Richard, who was also a judge

Adolph Kiefer

American swimmer with matinee idol looks who won gold at the Berlin Olympics, met Hitler and later instructed the US Navy

Adolph Kiefer was in a training pool in Germany on the eve of the 1936 Olympic Games when a small, moustachioed man arrived with his entourage for a photo opportunity.

At 18, Kiefer was the youngest member of the US team. Of German descent, he had competed in the country the previous year, so the Führer was eager to meet him.

"Hello, how are you, how do you like Germany?" Adolf Hitler asked as the men made polite small talk through an interpreter and Hermann Goering looked on. Later, Kiefer would often remark: "I should've thrown him in the pool and drowned him. It would've saved everyone a lot of trouble."

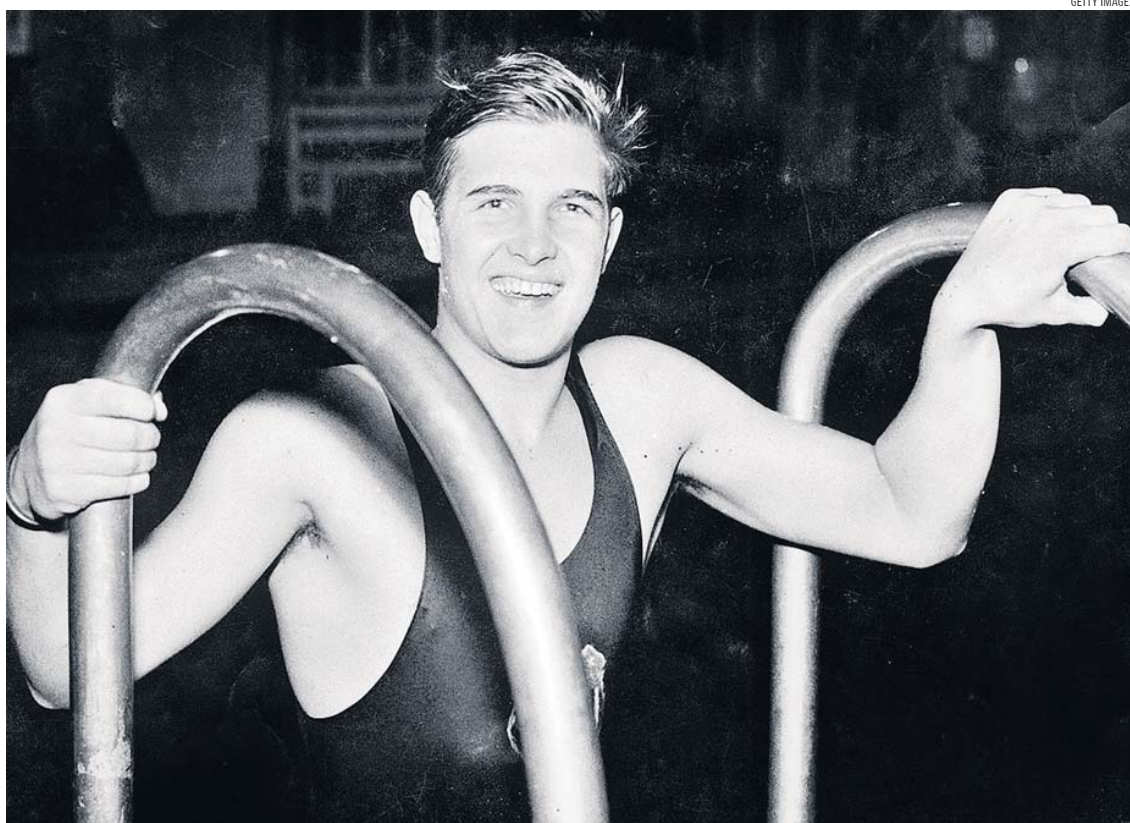
Kiefer set several world records in Berlin on the way to winning the gold medal in the 100m backstroke. Six years after meeting Hitler, he signed up to fight him, joining the US Navy.

Although the war interrupted his swimming career — he would surely have won more medals in 1940 and 1944 had the Games not been suspended — it did allow Kiefer to use his aquatic talents for what he viewed as his greatest achievement, helping to save the lives of American sailors.

Kiefer entered the navy as a physical fitness specialist, and was alarmed to discover that more sailors were dying from drowning than from combat wounds. After reading a report that said that most of the fatalities from the attack on Pearl Harbor resulted from drowning, he persuaded his superiors that better training was essential.

Kiefer created a programme that taught 13,000 instructors survival techniques, including a method known as "victory backstroke". In turn, they passed the skills on to two million recruits. Backstroke, Kiefer realised, appealed to weak swimmers afraid to put their heads underwater. He also played a part in improving the navy's safety equipment after discovering that their lifejackets were flammable.

Adolph Gustav Kiefer was born in Chicago in 1918 to a large family of German immigrants. His father, Otto, was a sweet-maker who died during the Depression. In his early teens, Kiefer worked as a lift operator, swimming in



The American swimmer Adolph Kiefer at a competition in Vienna in 1935. He set his first world record when he was just 15

his spare time. He had fallen into his love of swimming — aged five or six he slipped into a drainage ditch and thrashed his way to safety on his back. Although he excelled at the freestyle and individual medley, his decision to specialise in backstroke was informed by that experience, and by his dislike of inhaling water when face down.

He shattered his first world record as a 15-year-old. When he was a year older he became the first person to swim the 100-yard backstroke in less than a minute. Kiefer would officially break 23 records in his career, some lasting for more than two decades. He became well known in Europe after swimming in 29 meets in 32 days across six countries in 1935, winning every race. In

Leipzig he had been disturbed by the persecution of Jews, which was obvious as he strolled through the city. The next year, crossing the Atlantic on a boat with the rest of the US Olympic team, he became a close friend of Jesse

He broke 23 records in his career, some lasting for more than two decades

Owens, the black athlete whose success gave the lie to the Nazis' claims of Aryan superiority. When Kiefer's first name became notorious, friends used his nickname, "Sonny Boy".

Adapting the "flip turn" used by free-

style swimmers to the backstroke was one of the keys to his success. In all, Kiefer lost only two of 2,000 races. One defeat was to Ronald Reagan in 1950. The future president, then known as an actor, was a strong swimmer who had worked as a lifeguard. Kiefer raced him as a publicity stunt at a new pool in Reagan's home town of Dixon, Illinois. "It took forever to let him win," Kiefer told the *Chicago Daily Herald* in 2016.

Blessed with matinee idol looks, he was said to have auditioned for the role of Tarzan that went to Johnny Weissmuller, himself an Olympic swimmer, and in the late 1940s he took part in a sports show in which he raced a seal.

Kiefer also co-authored several books and entered the swimming

equipment business. He held 14 patents. Versions of a wave-reducing lane divider that he invented in the 1960s have been widely used in competitions, including the Olympic Games.

Lanes were usually made of rope and cork floats, which were ineffective at reducing turbulence. Kiefer made a hard plastic cylinder to "eat" the waves, taking his inspiration from a candle holder. "I was having dinner with some friends at a restaurant in Baltimore and something about the candle in the middle of the table caught my eye," he wrote in 2006.

"I studied the hurricane light, noticing the woven plastic basket-like covering, and I removed the plastic from the candle, shaping it into a tube. I pictured the ends capped with a disc of foam. I figured the plastic mesh could baffle the wake from a swimmer, and when strung end-to-end, they might work. I wanted to yell, 'Eureka!' But they would have thrown me out the place."

The company's first notable product was a nylon full-body suit, which improved racing times in a period when many suits were made of wool or polyester. Kiefer turned to nylon because silk was in short supply after the war. He is also credited with inventing the kickboard, now a common training tool for beginners, and a buoyant lifesaving tube for lifeguards.

He met his wife, Joyce, at a pool in Chicago. They married in 1941. "I gave a swimming exhibition between the wedding and the reception and earned 35 bucks for the honeymoon," he said in the 2016 interview. Along with their son, Jack, his wife helped to run the company before her death from cancer in 2015. Kiefer is survived by Jack and three other children: Dale, a marine biology professor; Kathy, a lawyer; and Gail, an anaesthesiologist. Dale and Jack were nationally ranked swimmers.

Although neuropathy confined Kiefer to a wheelchair in his nineties, he continued to swim every day in a small indoor pool at his home, still doing the backstroke.

Adolph Kiefer, swimmer, was born on June 27, 1918. He died of pneumonia on May 5, 2017, aged 98

Geoffrey Bayldon

Wizened actor with a keen sense of mischief best known for playing old men, particularly Catweazle, even when he was young

One morning in 1972, Marc Bolan and Geoffrey Bayldon were being driven by Rolls-Royce to John Lennon's Ascot home, when a car pulled up beside them at the traffic lights. Bolan, at the peak of his fame, called out, "Yes missus, it is! It's me and Catweazle!"

The unlikely pair were on their way to be directed by Ringo Starr in a surreal sequence for Bolan's film *Born to Boogie*. Bayldon was to play a butler at a kind of Mad Hatter's tea party, with burgers from Fortnum & Mason. He was cast because Bolan and the Beatles were fans of *Catweazle*, the magical comedy series in which he played a medieval wizard who accidentally transports himself (and his familiar, a toad called Touchwood) to the late 20th century. There he is befriended by a level-headed boy called Carrot, who tries to quell his alarm about the modern world by explaining that "the sun in a bottle" is a light bulb, the "telling bone" is a telephone and "electrickery" does not involve any trickery at all.

The part was written for him by his actor friend Richard Carpenter, who was inspired by seeing the word "catweasle" on a gate after getting lost in the Sussex countryside. Bayldon's wild



Geoffrey Bayldon as Catweazle in 1970

performance, bursting with tics, yelps and grimaces, swept up a generation of children. To this day there is a thriving *Catweazle* fan club.

Albert Geoffrey Bayldon was born in 1924, the youngest of three sons, to a Leeds tailor and a teacher. After attending Bridlington School he spent three uneventful years stationed locally with the RAF, which allowed him time for

amateur dramatics. He went on to study at Hull College of Architecture, and in 1947 won a place at the Old Vic Theatre School. There he was spotted by the impresario CB Cochran, who put him on what Bayldon called "the old man route", casting him as the Romanian prime minister in his 127th and final production, *Tough at the Top* (1949).

Anthony Quayle invited him to join his company at Stratford-upon-Avon, where his Shakespearean roles were plentiful, if not always prominent. After that his television career ushered him away from the stage, although he did make two noteworthy returns. In 1986 he and George Cole starred as old boys seeing out their days in a care home and enduring condescending visits from their families in *A Month of Sundays*, which won the Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy.

A brief marriage to Joan, a school-teacher, ended in an amicable divorce before he settled down with the actor Alan Rowe in 1951. It was one of the great double acts, as well as the great love stories of the acting world.

They made their home in Barnes, next door to the agony aunt Marjorie Proops, and conducted glorious dinner

parties during which Bayldon, a tireless raconteur, would share his passion for musicals.

Rowe was the chief cook and bottle-washer, meticulous while Bayldon was mischievous. Between acting jobs they also shared an interest in art and animals, over the years nursing a stray tortoise through pneumonia and even adopting Touchwood the toad.

Rowe died in 2000, and although Bayldon remained energetic, hard-working, cheerful and flirtatious with his fans, his remaining 17 years were lived in the shadow of that loss. A

His performance as Catweazle swept up a generation of children

tender friendship with his ex-wife endured until her death in 2009. In her final years, after she suffered a severe stroke, Bayldon would visit twice a week to read to her.

It was another Barnes neighbour, Jon Pertwee, who cast him as the noble Crowman in the gloriously and grotesquely well-realised *Worzel Gums*

midge (1979-81), which made him a cult figure for a second time.

He was also an occasional film actor, often swinging between comedy and horror. He played splendidly against Peter Sellers in *Casino Royale* (1967) as well as in *The Pink Panther Strikes Again* (1976), and he was extremely moving in the role of a victimised gay osteopath in John Schlesinger's *Madame Sousatzka* (1988), which was his favourite film role.

After a lifetime playing elderly people, he made for a sprightly pensioner himself, always with a spring in his step (especially if he was being taken to the pub). He never charged a fee for attending fan club events and was accommodating to those whose childhood he evoked.

Robin Davies who was his young co-star in *Catweazle* died in 2010 at the age of 56, and the show's writer, Richard Carpenter, died two years later. With Bayldon's death, that enchanting, enduring tale from a more innocent age has finally drawn to a close.

Geoffrey Bayldon, actor, was born on January 7, 1924. He died of undisclosed causes on May 10, 2017, aged 93

Law Report

What factors make someone’s presence in the UK ‘unlawful’?

Court of Appeal
Published May 18 2017
Akinyemi v Secretary of State for the Home Department

Before Sir Terence Etherton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Davis and Lord Justice Underhill
[2017] EWCA Civ 236
Judgment April 4, 2017

In the context of the weight to be given to the family life of a person subject to immigration controls, that person was in the United Kingdom “unlawfully” when his presence in the UK was in breach of the law and not merely when he had no vested right to remain.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing the appeal of Remi Akinyemi against the decision of the Upper Tribunal (Judge Kekic) on November 24, 2014 which, on a rehearing following a determination by the First-tier Tribunal, dismissed his appeal against a deportation order made on February 13, 2014 by the Home Secretary.

Section 117B(4) of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 (as inserted by section 19 of the Immigration Act 2014) provides: “Little weight should be given to — (a) a private life, or (b) a relationship formed with a qualifying partner, that is established by a person at a time when the person is in the United Kingdom unlawfully.”

Mr Richard Drabble, QC and Mr Ranjiv Khubber for the appellant, **Mr Rory Dunlop** for the Home Secretary.

Lord Justice Underhill said that the appellant was born in the UK in 1983 to Nigerian nationals. His family became or were British citizens, but the appellant had not acquired British nationality automatically at birth and he had never acquired it since. He had never left the UK, whether to visit Nigeria or

anywhere else. He had a long record of criminal offending from his teenage years onwards and, following his conviction for drugs offences in 2013, the Home Secretary ordered that he be deported to Nigeria. He appealed on the basis that his deportation would be in breach of his rights to family life under article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The question was whether the reference in the context of section 117B(4) of the 2002 Act to a person being in the UK “unlawfully” was to their presence in breach of UK law or merely to their not having a positive vested right of residence. His Lordship preferred the former construction for two reasons.

First, as a matter of the ordinary use of language it seemed unnatural to describe a person’s presence in the UK as “unlawful” when there was no specific legal obligation of which they were in breach by being in the UK and no legal right to remove them, and all the more so where they had, as the appellant had from the ages of 4 to 23, an absolute right at any time to acquire British nationality simply by making the necessary application.

Second, a construction which focused on removability rather than a positive right to remain was more in keeping with the statutory context. Section 117B(4) was concerned with the establishment of a “private life” over a period of presence in the UK. It was reasonable to place little weight on private life established while a person’s presence in the country was “unlawful” as he had no legitimate expectation of continuing presence in the country and could be removed at any time.

It was hard to see how that policy could apply to the situation

of a person born in the UK to parents who were lawfully present and who in due course became settled, who was legally irremovable and who was entitled to acquire British nationality. Such a person’s expectation that they would continue to live indefinitely in the UK was entirely legitimate.

On that construction the meaning of section 117B(4) was not of decisive importance since the obligation under section 117A was only “to have regard to” the considerations in sections 117B and 117C and could not trump the obligation to give effect to Convention rights.

The appellant’s position had changed in 2006 when his right to acquire British nationality was qualified by the introduction of the suitability requirement. That change did not appear to have the consequence of rendering his presence in the UK unlawful, since even after it he remained irremovable (otherwise than by deportation). In view of the convictions he had accrued by 2006 it seemed unlikely that he could have acquired citizenship at any time after that date.

It followed that the Upper Tribunal judge had been wrong to direct herself that little weight ought to be attached to the fact that the appellant had been in the UK his whole life, as his presence was unlawful. As that misdirection went to the central issue in the case and was one which required a peculiarly sensitive assessment, it was material. On that ground only, the appeal would be allowed and the case remitted for re-hearing before a differently constituted Upper Tribunal to consider the case de novo.

The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Davis agreed.
Solicitors: **Turpin Miller LLP; Treasury Solicitor.**

The Duchess of Cornwall, Commodore-in-Chief, Royal Naval Medical Service, this afternoon received Surgeon Commodore Peter Buxton upon relinquishing his appointment as Medical Director General (Naval) and Commodore Inga Kennedy upon assuming the appointment.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Fan Museum, received Mrs Hélène Alexander (Director and Curator).

Kensington Palace
17th May, 2017
The Duke of Cambridge this morning attended a Meeting of the Royal Foundation Taskforce on the Prevention of Cyberbullying at Buckingham Palace.

Buckingham Palace
17th May, 2017
The Duke of York this morning arrived at Beijing International Airport and was received by Mr Martyn Roper (Deputy Head of Mission to the People’s Republic of China).

His Royal Highness, Founder, Pitch@Palace, later held a Meeting with the Founders of Pitch@Palace China Club at the Rosewood Hotel, Beijing.

The Duke of York, Chancellor, this afternoon attended a Reception for alumni of the University of Huddersfield, Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing.

His Royal Highness was represented by Sir John Ritblat at the Memorial Service for Mr Irvine Sellar (Founder, Sellar Properties) which was held at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, 28 St John’s Wood Road, London NW8, this evening.

Buckingham Palace
17th May, 2017

The Princess Royal, Second Warden, the Fishmongers’ Company, this morning received Mr Nigel Banks (Prime Warden) and Commodore Toby Williamson RN (Clerk).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Royal National Children’s Foundation, this afternoon attended a One Hundred and Ninetieth Anniversary Reception, Credit Suisse Headquarters, One Cabot Square, London E14, and was received by Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Mr Kenneth Olisa).

The Princess Royal, Grand Master, the Royal Victorian Order, accompanied by Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, this evening attended Evensong in The Queen’s Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Hill, London WC2, followed by a Reception.

Kensington Palace
17th May, 2017
The Duke of Gloucester this morning officially opened St John’s Church School, Riseholme, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, and was received by Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire (Mrs Julie Spence).

His Royal Highness afterwards officially opened the Early Years Play Area at William Law Church School, Twelvetre Avenue, Werrington, Peterborough. His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Floodex, Peterborough Arena, East of England Showground, Peterborough.

Buckingham Palace
17th May, 2017
Princess Alexandra, Royal Patron, the Florence Nightingale Foundation, this evening attended a Commemoration Service in Westminster Abbey, London SW1.

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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NOW unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. Ephesians 3.20-21 (AV)

Births

VOILLEMOT On 20th April 2017 to Isabelle (née Crocker) and Frédéric, a daughter, Emilie Alice Hélène Mary, born at 4.56am in Santa Monica, USA.

PAGE On 16th May 2017 to Caroline and Piers, a son, William Piers George.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR T.W.H. COLLINS AND MISS E.C. SALMON

The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of Mr and Mrs Simon Collins of Bampton, Oxfordshire, and Eleanor, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Salmon of Worcester, Worcestershire.

MR O. HUMPHRIES AND MISS S. OAKLEY
The engagement is announced between Oscar, elder son of Mr Barry Humphries CBE of Hampstead, London, and Ms Diane Millstead of Shoreditch, London, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Oakley of Fulham, London.

Deaths

CROCKER Jocelin Anthony Delamain died suddenly on 13th May 2017, aged 69, in Bogota, Colombia. Beloved father and grandfather. Requiescat In Pace.

DEVONSHIRE Michael Norman. His Honour Judge, Michael Norman Devonshire, passed away 15th May 2017, aged 86 years. Funeral service to be held on Monday 5th June 2017. Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells, at 11:30am. For further enquiries please contact: Southborough Funeral Service. Tel: 01892 539744.

FAGENT Ivan Kaye on 12th May 2017, aged 83. Beloved husband of Jackie, wonderful father to Marcus and Louise and devoted grandfather to Bertie, Percy, George and Annabelle, he will be greatly missed by family and friends. The funeral is at Woking Crematorium, on 24th May, at 10.15am. A memorial will be held on 30th June, at the Great Barn, Wanborough - contact Louise (01227 722984). No flowers please, but donations to Shipwrecked Mariners’.

GRIMOND Grizelda Jane, on 15th May, aged 75. Beloved mother of Katharine; grandmother of Finn, Jo and Kimball; sister of Andrew, Johnny and Magnus. Funeral service at St Bartholomew’s Church, Nettlebed, at 11am on May 25th. Private burial to follow in Orkney.

HELMORE Roy Lionel died on 11th May 2017, aged 90, after a short illness. Beloved husband of Margaret, he will be missed by many. Service of remembrance at St Mary’s Church, Saffron Walden, on Thursday 1st June, at 11am. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, for Roy’s chosen charities, may be left at the service or please contact Peasgood & Skeates, Shire Hill, Saffron Walden, CB11 3AQ. Tel: 01799 523314 for more information.

HUMPHREYS Robert Gordon died peacefully on 11th May 2017, aged 84. Beloved husband of Fiona, father, grandfather, stepfather and step grandfather. Funeral 12.30pm, 25th May, St Margaret’s Church, Hornby. Family flowers only. Charitable donations via Preston Ireland Bowker, 01524 64023.

HUNT Pamela (née Ho) on 11th May 2017, aged 93, peacefully at St Mary’s Convent and Nursing Home, Chiswick. Much-loved mother of Sandra and Sheila and proud and adored grandmother of Huw, Sophie and Eliza. Funeral service at St Michael and All Angels, Bedford Park, W4 1TT, on Wednesday 31st May, at 2pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to St Mary’s Convent and Nursing Home, c/o WS Bond, Funeral Directors, 127 Chiswick High Road, London W4 2ED.

JUDD Ralph ISO died peacefully on 30th April 2017, aged 88. A kind, honourable and respected man. Beloved husband to Anne, father to Hugh and Felicity, grandfather to Chris and Heather and great-grandfather to Henry.

KAULA Carolyn Mary died on 11th May 2017, aged 74. Memorial service at Holy Trinity Church, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, at 2pm, on Friday 23rd June 2017. Enquiries to Weaver Bros Ltd, Bembridge, PO35 5UE. Tel: 01983 872598.

LEWIS JONES Janet Ann on 13th May, after a very short illness. Jan was the dearly loved and loving sister of Elspeth and Catherine, aunt of Tom, Edward, Emily, Sam and George, and sister-in-law of Mike. She was also a much-loved and respected cousin, friend and colleague. Funeral service at The Cathedral, Brecon, at 2pm, on Tuesday 23rd May. Family flowers only please, donations, if so desired, to Oxfam or The Maytree Trust, of which she was a trustee, and can be sent to A V Griffiths & Son, Felinfach, Brecon, LD3 0UD 01874 623477.

OPPENHEIMER

Jennifer Ward Oppenheimer passed away peacefully at home on 16th May. Jennifer was a dearly loved wife of Jonathan and beloved mother to Samuel, Isabel and Nathaniel. There will be a private funeral service on Saturday 20th May, with details of a memorial service to be advised later. The Family thank everyone for their support at this difficult time.

PARKER Joan of Pulverbatch, Shropshire. Born 1916, died peacefully on 15th May 2017. She will be much missed by family and friends. Funeral service at St Edith’s Church, Pulverbath, on Tuesday 23rd May 2017, at 11am. Enquiries, tel: 01743 344646.

TARRING Roger on 13th May 2017 Roger died peacefully at home in Midhurst with Judy by his side. Funeral at 2.45pm, on Thursday 1st June, at Chichester Crematorium. Family flowers only. Inquiries to Roger Poat & Partners, funeral directors, tel: 01730 812094.

TOOLEY Mary Josephine on 8th May 2017, aged 89 Mary Josephine Tooley SRN, QARNNS, RUKBA (nee Aitken) born Malta 19th August 1927, (mar, 1958, div, 1976) loving mother to twins Elizabeth and Fiona and son Timothy and special Grannie to Vanessa and Sarah. passed away peacefully 8th May 2017, with her family at her bedside. We celebrate her long and happy life - Mary will be missed but memories and happier times will provide comfort and long live in our hearts. Lord keep her safe. Service to be held at Stafford Crematorium, Tuesday 23rd May 12.30pm. Request family flowers only, with donations welcome to Mary’s chosen charities: contact the Robert Nicholls, Funeral Directors. Tel: 01785 253683.

General Announcements

THE  TIMES

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Births, deaths, remembrance and celebrations

Next issue runs on Saturday 20th May
book online by 3.00pm Thursday 18th May

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VESTEY

John (Johnny) died peacefully at home on 10th May 2017. Adored by his wife Christl and much loved by his daughters Torna, Angie, Georgie, Sara and Christina and their mother Gay. Naughty Grandpa to Lucy, Luca, Will, Mils, Bella, Livi, Pia, Nick, Matt and Nina and Great Grandpa to Lupe. There will be no funeral at his request, but we will hold a party to celebrate his life at a later date.

WHITLOCK Jane Frances Mary on 9th May 2017, aged 67, peacefully at home in Wells-next-the-Sea. Much-loved sister, aunt, cousin and friend. Funeral mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea, at 11.30am, on Thursday 1st June. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to Wakisa Fund, c/o St T Sutton F/D, Burnt Street, Wells-next-the-Sea, NR23 1HL. Tel: 01328 710301.

WOOD Professor Ronald Karslake Starr, FRSc, died peacefully on 26th April 2017, aged 98. Leading Plant Pathologist of his time and long time servant of Imperial College and the Royal Society. Much-loved father of Richard and Jess, grandfather of Victoria, Michael and Emma, great-grandfather of Rosie and Fred. A marvellous man.

General Announcements



Tia has never known a life without pain.

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Court Circular



Buckingham Palace
17th May, 2017
The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Cormorant, this evening attended a Reception to mark the Seventieth Anniversary of the Cormorant Club at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, 61 Whitehall, London SW1, and was received by Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Mr Kenneth Olisa).

Clarence House
17th May, 2017
The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, this morning received Lieutenant Colonel Alastair Truett upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer 1st Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel Langley Sharp upon assuming the appointment.

His Royal Highness received His Grace Archbishop Bashar Warda of the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil, Iraq.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, this afternoon visited the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, and was received by Mrs Gillian Norton (Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London).

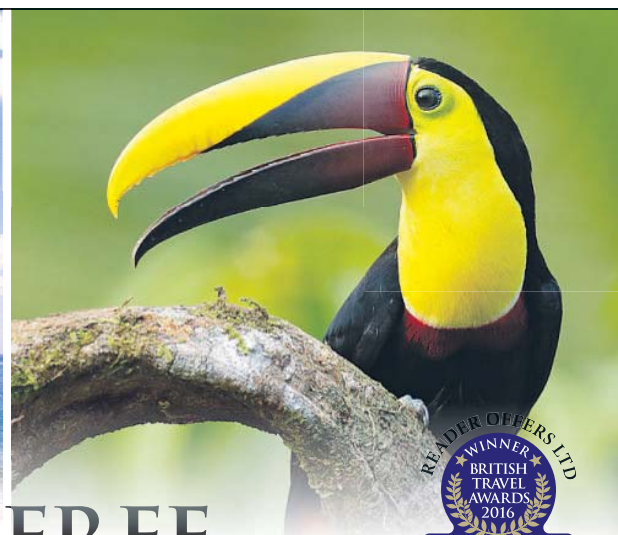
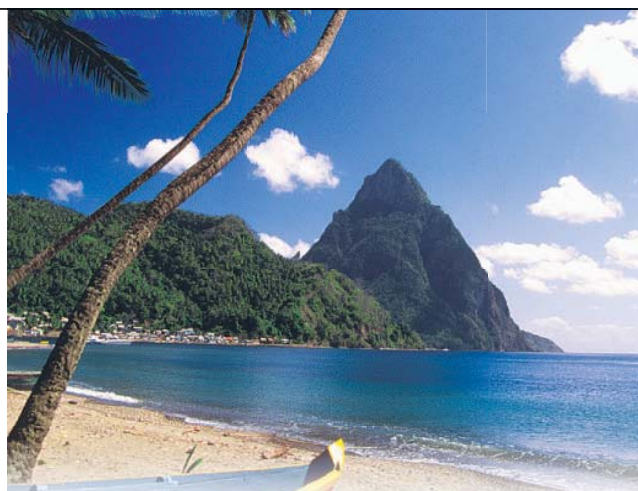
His Royal Highness later received His Holiness Pope Tawadros II, 118th Pope of Alexandria and Patriarch of the See of Saint Mark.

The Prince of Wales, Patron, Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra, this evening held a Concert and Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

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JANUARY 2018

- Sun 7 **Embark *Magellan* and depart London Tilbury**
- Mon 8 **Amsterdam, Netherlands**
- Thu 11 **Lisbon, Portugal**
- Sat 13 **Funchal, Madeira** (depart early pm)
- Tue 16 **Mindelo, Cape Verde**
Dominated by Monte Verde, there is so much to explore and take in, from the unique pastel-coloured villas in the plaza to the inviting shoreline streets with their market stalls. With its mix of Portuguese and African traditions, Mindelo is a really intriguing city
- Mon 22 **Santarém, Brazil**
Just outside the city, the turquoise waters of the Tapajos meet the ochre-coloured waters of the Amazon, which flow alongside each other without mixing. In this area are flooded forests, swamps and savannas
- Tue 23 **Boca da Valeria, Brazil**
- Wed 24 - **Manaus, Brazil** (overnight stay on board)
- Thu 25 The capital of the state of Amazonas and the hub of the whole Amazon region. Located on the banks of the Rio Negro, Manaus is only four miles from where the 'Meeting of the Waters' takes place, where Rio Solimões collides with the Negro to form the Amazon
- Fri 26 **Parintins, Brazil**
- Sat 27 **Alter do Chaó, Brazil** (depart early pm)
Situating amid lush vegetation on the Rio Tapajós, the small settlement consists of rustic native cottages sitting at the fringe of the forest above the white river sands. Here visitors enjoy swimming in the amazingly clear waters of the Tapajós
- Sun 28 ***Cruising the Amazon River***
Keep an eye out for the abundance of lush vegetation, beautiful flora and of course endemic species of birds, amphibians, fish, mammals and reptiles which make the Amazon their home

- Mon 29 **Icoaraci (for Belém), Brazil**
- Wed 31 **Îles du Salut, French Guiana**

FEBRUARY 2018

- Fri 2 **Scarborough, Tobago**
- Sat 3 **St. George's, Grenada**
Nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves and cocoa aromas fill the air. This Isle of Spice is a tropical gem of lush rainforests, white sand beaches, secluded coves and exotic flowers
- Sun 4 **Bridgetown, Barbados**
- Mon 5 **Castries, St. Lucia**
- Tue 6 **St. John's, Antigua**
Dazzling colours are everywhere in St. John's, Antigua; from the colonial architecture, to the delicious tropical fruits on offer at the bustling local market
- Mon 12 **Horta, Azores**
- Tue 13 **Ponta Delgada, Azores**
- Sun 18 **Arrive London Tilbury**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea



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Today A day of sunshine and scattered showers, these heavier in the north and west. Max 17C (63F), min 3C (37F)

Around Britain
Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy
du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain,
sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder
*=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C		Rain mm	Sun hr*
	midday yesterday		24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	
Aberdeen	16	PC	0.0	5.4
Aberporth	11	PC	0.0	0.8
Anglesey	12	PC	0.0	5.3
Aviemore	15	C	0.2	5.7
Barnstaple	12	R	4.6	**
Bedford	15	R	24.2	**
Belfast	15	PC	0.2	7.2
Birmingham	11	R	**	**
Bournemouth	15	R	22.8	0.4
Bridlington	13	PC	6.8	**
Bristol	13	R	16.2	0.0
Camborne	11	R	2.2	0.0
Cardiff	10	R	8.2	0.0
Edinburgh	16	PC	0.0	7.0
Eskdalemuir	12	PC	0.2	**
Glasgow	15	S	0.0	4.9
Guernsey	14	R	**	**
Hereford	11	R	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	22	C	3.6	7.8
Ipswich	17	PC	22.8	4.6
Isle of Man	13	PC	0.0	5.3
Isle of Wight	16	R	22.0	**
Keswick	15	C	0.0	**
Kinloss	17	PC	0.0	8.7
Leeds	13	S	1.0	**
Lerwick	11	PC	0.2	5.5
Leuchars	17	PC	0.4	5.6
Lincoln	14	R	13.2	0.0
Liverpool	14	C	0.0	**
London	17	SH	24.6	4.4
Lyneham	14	PC	20.0	0.1
Manchester	13	R	2.0	0.7
Margate	21	C	0.4	6.0
Milford Haven	13	C	0.0	**
Newcastle	15	PC	0.0	**
Nottingham	13	R	14.2	0.0
Orkney	14	S	3.6	12.5
Oxford	16	R	17.8	**
Plymouth	12	R	20.0	**
Portland	13	R	31.4	**
Scilly, St Mary's	12	S	0.6	**
Shoreham	17	R	16.2	5.7
Shrewsbury	12	R	3.8	0.2
Skye	12	PC	**	**
Snowdonia	12	PC	0.0	**
Southend	17	PC	13.0	6.4
Stornoway	11	PC	0.2	5.8
Tiree	13	PC	0.4	8.2
Whitehaven	12	S	0.0	**
Wick	14	S	0.0	**
Yeovilton	12	R	15.8	0.0

Five days ahead
An unsettled spell with showers or longer spells of rain for the rest of this week and the weekend

Tomorrow
Cooler temperatures than of late with a mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers. There may be a spell of moderate rain in eastern and southeast England in the morning.
Max 15C, min 3C

Saturday
A wet day across Scotland with persistent moderate rain. Elsewhere there will be sunny intervals and scattered showers, with the risk of these turning heavy and thundery.
Max 16C, min 2C

Sunday
Another day of sunshine and showers in a keen southwesterly breeze. The showers are likely to be lighter and more isolated than on Saturday, with the potential for longer brighter spells.
Max 18C, min 3C

The world
All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	26	F	Madeira	25	S
Amsterdam	26	F	Madrid	25	F
Athens	19	S	Majorca	26	F
Auckland	17	D	Malaga	24	F
Bahrain	39	F	Malta	23	S
Bangkok	28	R	Melbourne	13	F
Barbados	31	S	Mexico City	26	B
Barcelona	24	F	Miami	31	S
Beijing	30	F	Milan	26	F
Beirut	24	B	Mombasa	28	B
Belgrade	22	C	Montreal	20	S
Berlin	24	F	Moscow	7	C
Bermuda	23	B	Mumbai	33	S
Bordeaux	28	F	Munich	22	F
Brussels	25	F	Nairobi	23	C
Bucharest	22	F	Naples	26	S
Budapest	23	F	New Orleans	29	B
Buenos Aires	19	F	New York	22	S
Cairo	31	F	Nice	23	S
Calcutta	36	B	Nicosia	29	S
Canberra	14	F	Oslo	12	B
Cape Town	20	S	Paris	27	F
Chicago	28	S	Perth	20	S
Copenhagen	15	B	Prague	22	F
Corfu	24	S	Reykjavik	7	B
Delhi	33	B	Riga	16	F
Dubai	36	F	Rio de Janeiro	24	C
Dublin	16	S	Riyadh	40	F
Faro	27	F	Rome	27	S
Florence	27	S	San Francisco	16	B
Frankfurt	27	F	Santiago	11	M
Geneva	23	S	Sao Paulo	21	S
Gibraltar	22	F	Seoul	20	F
Harare	23	C	Seychelles	30	B
Helsinki	12	F	Singapore	32	S
Hong Kong	30	S	St Petersburg	13	F
Honolulu	28	S	Stockholm	9	D
Istanbul	18	S	Sydney	18	F
Jerusalem	27	F	Tel Aviv	25	F
Johannesburg	18	F	Tenerife	26	F
Kuala Lumpur	32	B	Tokyo	18	S
Lanzarote	25	S	Vancouver	10	C
Las Palmas	26	S	Venice	24	F
Lima	24	B	Vienna	21	F
Lisbon	23	S	Warsaw	21	F
Los Angeles	18	B	Washington	25	B
Luxor	39	F	Zurich	23	F

Wind speed
34 (mph)
Temperature
28 (degrees C)

Sea state
Calm
Slight
Moderate
Rough

Flood alerts and warnings
At 17:00 on Wednesday there were no flood alerts or warnings in England, Wales or Scotland. For further information and updates, visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, and for Scotland www.SEPA.org.uk

Tides
Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

		Ht	Ht
Today			
Aberdeen	06:51	3.5	19:48 3.4
Avonmouth	12:24	10.6	--:-- --
Belfast	04:29	3.2	17:23 2.9
Cardiff	12:12	9.8	--:-- --
Devonport	11:07	4.4	23:23 4.6
Dover	03:58	5.6	16:32 5.6
Dublin	05:09	3.5	17:57 3.3
Falmouth	10:45	4.1	23:09 4.3
Greenock	05:38	3.1	18:18 2.9
Harwich	05:10	3.5	17:28 3.4
Holyhead	03:40	4.7	16:18 4.4
Hull	11:38	6.1	--:-- --
Leith	08:08	4.6	20:52 4.5
Liverpool	04:32	7.9	17:03 7.5
London Bridge	07:02	6.3	19:18 6.0
Lowestoft	03:05	2.1	15:09 2.2
Milford Haven	11:38	5.4	--:-- --
Morecambe	04:31	7.7	17:02 7.3
Newhaven	04:08	5.4	16:46 5.4
Newquay	10:34	5.4	23:06 5.5
Oban	10:58	2.9	23:45 3.1
Penzance	10:04	4.4	22:40 4.5
Portsmouth	04:45	4.0	17:26 4.0
Shoreham	04:08	5.1	16:46 5.1
Southampton	03:45	3.9	16:53 4.0
Swansea	11:41	7.5	--:-- --
Tees	09:16	4.4	22:02 4.3
Weymouth	11:55	1.4	--:-- --

Synoptic situation
A low-pressure system to the north of the British Isles will gradually drift southeastwards across the country. Associated fronts and troughs will bring an unsettled few days with widespread showers or longer spells of rain. A waving frontal boundary will bring the risk of torrential rain and localised flooding across parts of France and northern Spain.

Highs and lows
24hrs to 5pm yesterday
Warmest: Frittenden, Kent, 24.3C
Coldest: Braemar, -1.9C
Wettest: Isle of Portland, Dorset, 31.4mm
Sunniest: Kirkwall, 12.5hrs*

Sun and moon
For Greenwich
Sun rises: 05.03
Sun sets: 20.49
Moon rises: 01.48
Moon sets: 11.33
Third quarter: 19 May

Hours of darkness
Aberdeen 21:57-04:10
Belfast 21:57-04:40
Birmingham 21:31-04:35
Cardiff 21:32-04:44
Exeter 21:30-04:49
Glasgow 21:58-04:27
Liverpool 21:40-04:35
London 21:20-04:32
Manchester 21:37-04:31
Newcastle 21:42-04:21
Norwich 21:19-04:21
Penzance 21:35-04:59
Sheffield 21:34-04:29

Weather Eye
Paul Simons

The Earth sparkles with mysterious flashes of blue lights twinkling like brilliant diamonds, as seen from space. This remarkable discovery was made by a satellite carrying a powerful camera, which caught 866 flashes of light over a year. The phenomenon has led to all sorts of theories — could the flashing lights be secret signals passing information to passing UFOs? Or is there a more down-to-earth explanation?

In 1993, the astronomer Carl Sagan noted bright lights from Earth caught by the Galileo spacecraft before it flew to Jupiter, and these lights came from sunlight flashing off calm seas. The strangest thing about the recent satellite pictures is that the flashes were caught over land as well as sea, and also at high altitudes in the atmosphere, all of which ruled out light reflecting off water. And the lights appeared only during the day, which also ruled out flashes of lightning.

Now the mystery of the flashing Earth lights has been solved — they come from high cirrus clouds sparkling like jewels in the sky. Cirrus clouds float around at about 5-8km (3-5 miles) high in the atmosphere, where temperatures are around minus 30C (minus 22F) and water is frozen into minute ice crystals. Some of these ice crystals are shaped like six-sided plates, and when they line up horizontally they reflect sunlight like mirrors, making a big flash that can be seen from space.

Of course, that's something visible only to satellites and astronauts, but down on the ground we can see fantastic light phenomena created by the same clouds of ice crystals. When wispy tendrils of cirrus clouds veil the sun they can bend and reflect the sunlight into an arc of multicoloured light that looks like an upside-down rainbow, hanging in the sky like some sort of psychedelic Cheshire Cat's grin. Another light show from the six-sided ice crystals occurs when the sun is fairly low in the sky. This can create a pair of multicoloured mock suns on either side of the real sun.

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Sport

Ainslie under fire after crashing into rival boat

Sailing Ron Lewis

Ben Ainslie has apologised to Emirates Team New Zealand after his Land Rover BAR boat crashed into the back of its rival at the start of a practice race in Bermuda causing damage to both.

There are only eight days until the start of racing for the 35th America's Cup and the teams are competing in their final series of practice races. The incident happened as both boats vied for position at the start.

Ainslie called the collision "a love tap" on Twitter. It resulted in the race on Tuesday being abandoned and both boats having to return to their workshops.

"We had the leeward end of the line pretty locked down, Ben was quite late and just ran straight into the back of us with his windward bow," Peter Burling, the New Zealand helmsman, said. "[It is] just unnecessary a week out from the America's Cup. We are all here to learn and it's a shame we have a pretty big dent now in the back of our nice

boat. You can definitely see it has punctured right into the cockpit around where my steering wheel is."

Land Rover BAR's boat suffered damage to its bow but was back on the water yesterday after running repairs. Team New Zealand's boat, though, was still in its workshop and had to miss the day's races.

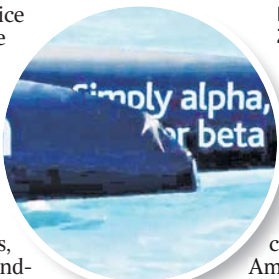
The incident showed how competitive practice racing has become as the crews push their boats to the limit. Ainslie tweeted: "Bit of a love tap racing hard with Emirates Team NZ. Sorry guys and hope you're back in the water soon."

This series of practice races is the last chance the teams will have to recreate race conditions before it starts for real a week tomorrow.

The action begins with the Challenger Series, in which all six teams, including Oracle Team USA, the defenders, will compete in a round-



Land Rover BAR's boat, left, crashes into the Emirates Team New Zealand boat at the start, inflicting damage, circled and inset



robin series. After eight days of racing, one challenger will be eliminated before the racing goes into semi-finals, then a final, to establish which team will challenge Oracle for the America's Cup starting on

June 17. Land Rover BAR have continued to struggle against the more established teams.

They lost to Oracle and Softbank Team Japan on Monday and again to Japan and New Zealand earlier on Tuesday, although they did gain a victory over Groupama Team France. Land Rover BAR will have a two-

America's Cup schedule

May 26-June 3

America's Cup qualifiers
All six teams race each other twice

June 4-June 8

Challenger Series semi-finals
The top four challenging teams compete in best-of-nine semi-finals

June 10-June 12

Challenger Series final (best of nine)

June 17-June 27

America's Cup final (best of 13)
Oracle v Challenger Series winner

point head start going into the round-robin series after finishing top of the America's Cup World Series.

So far, Artemis Racing, the Swedish team led by Iain Percy, the British double Olympic champion, look to be the strongest, although they sat out Monday's racing as their boat underwent an upgrade.

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GLORY AWAITS
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Perth

Rob Wright

2.00 Enzani	4.15 Caius Marcius
2.30 Rainy City	4.45 Dr Moloney
3.05 Pretty Miss Mahler	5.20 An Fear Ciuin
3.40 Don Franco	

Going: good Racing UK

2.00 Maiden Hurdle

(£3,249: 2m 47y) (12)

1 PP-ADSUP 31P (T) S Crawford (Ire) 6-11-0	T O'Brien
2 040-0 BALLYHOWNE 13 (T) S Crawford (Ire) 7-11-0	B Hughes
3 0566- DANCE OF FIRE 21 N Alexander 5-11-0	L Alexander
4 02/2- ENZANI 297F (T,P,BF) J McConnell (Ire) 6-11-0	R Johnson
5 530- LASTIN' MEMORIES 38 Miss S Forster 5-11-0	J Faltejssek
6 0FPO- OUTLAW JOSEY WALES 23 R Mike Smith 6-11-0	S Mulqueen (3)
7 0/5- PAINTERS LAD 135 Alison Hamilton 6-11-0	J Hamilton (3)
8 45- ULUROO 23 Pauline Robson 5-11-0	C Nichol
9 55- MR GRUMPY 21 Miss L Russell 4-10-10	D R Fox
10 3/06- BOOGIE LIFE 20 (D) J Goldie 6-10-7	C Bewley (3)
11 540- HENPECKED 21 (P) A Whillans 7-10-7	H Brooke
12 LUCKY BOO 787F (H) H Burns 8-10-7	A Lane

8-11 Enzani, 8-1 Ballyhowne, 11-1 Dance Of Fire, 12-1 Uluroo, 14-1 Adsup, Henpecked, 16-1 Boogie Life, Mr Grumpy, 20-1 others.

2.30 Novices' Chase

(£8,899: 2m 7f 180y) (5)

1 5P60- BABY BACH 26 S Crawford (Ire) 7-10-12	B Hughes
2 24-6P BROWN TRIX 8 (T) V Thompson 7-10-12	T Dowson (5)
3 PP5-5 CALL ZAC 12 (T) J Jardine 8-10-12	D Irving (5)
4 2230- RAINY CITY 82 (T,C) P Nicholls 7-10-12	S Twiston-Davies
5 /140- TARA MIST 28 (C) H Daly 8-10-5	R Johnson

4-5 Rainy City, 2-1 Tara Mist, 9-2 Baby Bach, 33-1 Call Zac, Brown Trix.

3.05 Handicap Hurdle

(£3,249: 2m 4f 35y) (12)

1 3040- KATALYSTIC 78 Miss L Russell 6-12-0	S Mulqueen (3)
2 6051- PRETTY MISS MAHLER 20 (CD) M Todhunter 6-11-12	H Brooke
3 6P3-1 ONLYFOOLSOOWNHORSES 7 (T,D) M D Hammond 6-11-10	F O'Toole (5)
4 00P0- PETITE GANACHE 23 N Richards 5-11-4	A Nicol
5 0P00- MOTION TO STRIKE 20 (T) J Stephen 7-11-3	B Hughes
6 03P3- RONALDINHO 20 (T,P) Mrs D Sayer 7-10-12	Colm McCormack (3)
7 600P- KARINGO 20 (P) Mrs L Normile 10-10-7	H Reed (7)
8 0640- MY VALENTINO 21 (P) Mrs D Sayer 4-10-6	R McLernon
9 0064- CADORE 10F (P,C) Mrs L Normile 9-10-6	G Cockburn (3)
10 2300- LADY VIVONA 255 Miss L Harrison 9-10-1	C Bewley (3)
11 4FPP- GENTLEMAN JAMES 58 Mrs D Sayer 5-10-0	J Hamilton (3)
12 6060- KING'S CHORISTER 92 (T,P,CD) F Murtagh 11-10-0	L Murtagh (7)

5-4 Onlyfoolsoownhorses, 8-1 Pretty Miss Mahler, Ronaldinho, 10-1 Katalystic, Motion To Strike, Petite Ganache, 14-1 others.

3.40 Handicap Chase

(£3,798: 2m 7f 180y) (10)

1 305-0 MOLLIES GENT 13 (T,CD) P Stafford (Ire) 9-12-1	A Short (7)
2 553U- DOUBLEDISDOUBLEDAT 38 (BF) W S Coltherd 7-10-12	S Coltherd (5)
3 /430- DON FRANCO 23 (V) S Crawford (Ire) 7-11-0	R Johnson
4 3P40- SHAIYAZAR 22 (P,D) D Thompson 8-10-13	N Moscrop (5)
5 4100- OSCAR LATEEN 33 V Thompson 9-10-10	T Dowson (5)
6 0480- SHINE A DIAMOND 38 (T,P) Miss L Russell 9-10-3	S Mulqueen (3)
7 3P34- DUTCH CANYON 38 (B) N Alexander 7-10-2	G Cockburn (3)
8 45F-6 DAYDREAM ISLAND 12 S Walton 7-10-1	H Reed (7)
9 06P6- CRINKLE CRAGS 23 N Richards 7-10-0	C Nichol
10 F05-4 ARANTES 12 A Hamilton 6-10-0	L Murtagh (7)

11-4 Doubledisdoubleddat, 5-1 Don Franco, 6-1 Dutch Canyon, 8-1 others.

4.15 Handicap Hurdle

(£7,507: 2m 47y) (6)

1 0000- CALL THE COPS 20 (P,D) B Haslam 8-11-12	R McLernon
2 3134- RAISE A SPARK 40 (H,D) D McCain 7-11-12	W Kennedy
3 U410- CAIUS MARCIUS 33 (CD) N Richards 6-11-9	C Nichol
4 41F4- DEEPSAND 69 (T,CD,BF) Miss L Russell 8-11-2	A Thorne (7)
5 5132- VERONA OPERA 20 (D) S Crawford (Ire) 6-10-11	B Hughes
6 605-2 WEAPON OF CHOICE 8 (T,P,D) Mrs D Sayer 9-10-2	L Murtagh (7)

3-1 Caius Marcius, 7-2 Raise A Spark, Weapon Of Choice, 9-2 others.

4.45 Handicap Chase

(£6,256: 2m 4f 20y) (6)

1 1135- AMILLIONTIMES 192 (T,CD) J Stephen 9-11-12	B Hughes
2 22F4- LOU VERT 31 (T,BF) P Nicholls 5-11-12	S Twiston-Davies
3 3555- CAPTAIN HOX 27 (T,P) P Griffin (Ire) 8-11-10	A Short (7)
4 P36-3 COOPER'S FRIEND 12 (T,P,D) R Mike Smith 8-11-8	T O'Brien
5 33PP- DR MOLONEY 208P (T,C) S Crawford (Ire) 10-11-5	R Johnson
6 2046- SO SATISFIED 29 (P,D) J Jardine 6-11-2	Ross Chapman (7)

11-4 Lou Vert, 3-1 So Satisfied, 7-2 Amilliontimes, 6-1 others.

5.20 Conditionals' Handicap Hurdle

(£3,798: 2m 4f 35y) (8)

1 4431- WORK DU BRETEAU 26 (H) T Reed 7-11-13	H Beswick (5)
2 1645- IMPORTANT MOMENT 27 (T,C) S Crawford (Ire) 8-11-12	D Noonan
3 0043- JET MASTER 22 (H,T,CD) N Alexander 11-11-7	G Cockburn (3)
4 00P3- GOLD CHAIN 22 (H,T,CD,BF) Mrs D Sayer 7-10-10	L Murtagh (3)
5 5060- THORPE 137 (T,P) Miss L Russell 7-10-10	B Campbell (6)
6 0/05- AN FEAR CIUIN 21 R Mike Smith 6-10-9	D Irving
7 50/1- TEKTHELOT 355 (C) N Richards 11-10-8	R Day (3)
8 2425- URBAN KODE 20 (V,CD,BF) Miss L Russell 9-10-1	A Thorne (8)

7-2 Gold Chain, 9-2 Jet Master, Tekthelot, 5-1 Work Du Breteau, 8-1 others.

Yesterday's racing results

York

Going: soft

2.20 (1m 2f) 1, Master Carpenter (P Makin, 12-1); 2, Al Neksh (7-1); 3, Oasis Fantasy (20-1); 4, Awake My Soul (25-1). 20 ran. 5½, 1½, B R Millman.

2.55 (6f) 1, Al Qahwa (D Tudhope, 25-1); 2, Muntadab (6-1 jt-fav); 3, Lincoln (14-1); 4, Northgate Lad (8-1). 16 ran. NR: Lexington Abbey, New Bidder, Out Do, Watchable. Nk, 1½, D O'Meara.

3.30 (6f) 1, Tasleet (J Crowley, 14-1); 2, Magical Memory (14-1); 3, Comicas (25-1). 12 ran. NR: Final Venture. 2½, 1½, W Haggas.

4.05 (1m 2f) 1, Shutter Speed (L Dettori, 4-7 fav); 2, Vintage Folly (12-1); 3, Sere-nada (15-2). 5 ran. 1½, 1½, J Gosden.

4.35 (7f) 1, Battered (R Moore, 4-1 fav); 2, Luailwa (16-1); 3, Starlight Romance (9-1). 14 ran. NR: Akhlaaq, Chessman, Favez, Tai Sing Yeh. 2½, ns, W Haggas.

5.05 (5f) 1, Santry (J Crowley, 9-4 fav); 2, Consequences (4-1); 3, Palmer (12-1). 8 ran. NR: Dyson's Girl, Tangled, The Right Choice. 2½, 1½, D Carroll.

5.35 (1m 3f 188yd) 1, Zain Arion (J Egan, 20-1); 2, Purple Rock (14-1); 3, Tapis Libre (50-1); 4, Theydon Grey (6-1). 16 ran. NR: Dolphin Village, Peterhouse, Richie Mccaw, St Malo. 1½, 6l, J Butler. Placepot: £310.30. Quadpot: £51.80.

Worcester

Going: good (good to soft in places)

2.00 (2m 7f ch) 1, Heroes Or Ghosts (J McGrath, 15-8 fav); 2, Blazing Glen (20-1); 3, Between The Waters (9-2). 7 ran. 1½, 1l. Miss J S Davis.

2.30 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Stynes (Charlie Deutsch, 6-1); 2, Deauville Dancer (9-2); 3, Bold Duke (8-1). 6 ran. NR: Yes Daddy. 1½, nk, G McPherson.

3.05 (2m flat) 1, A Three Eighty (N Fehily, 20-1); 2, Annie Angel (9-4 fav); 3, Samarayia (14-1). 14 ran. Sh hd, 13l, T Hogan.

3.40 (2m 7f hdl) 1, Amron Kali (Nick Scholfield, 11-4); 2, Pearlita (4-1); 3, Hija (8-1). 6 ran. NR: Icanmotor, Jupiter's Gift. 4½, 26l, P Henderson.

4.15 (2m 7f hdl) 1, Steel Bob (N D Fehily, 11-8); 2, Rollo's Reflection (33-1); 3, Cap Horner (10-1). 6 ran. NR: Follow The Bear. 2½, 24l, H Fry.

4.45 (2m 4f hdl) 1, Sam Noir (Sean Bowen, 7-1); 2, Marvellous Monty (7-1); 3, Muffins For Tea (8-11 fav). 7 ran. NR: Chevalgrais, Keating, My Mo, Over The Air, Pongo Twistleton, Royal Battalion, The Two Amigos. 1½, ¾, P Bowen.

5.15 (2m 4f hdl) 1, Old Harry Rocks (N D Fehily, 5-6 fav); 2, Global Bonus (7-1); 3, Petitville (5-2). 8 ran. NR: Adman Sam, Burrows Lane. 4½, 9l, H Fry.

Placepot: £7,126.00. Quadpot: £206.10.

Yarmouth

Going: good

1.40 (6f 3yd) 1, Farook (Dane O'Neill, 4-9 fav); 2, Peace Dreamer (7-1); 3, Higgys Heartbeat (28-1). 9 ran. ¾, ¾, C Hills.

2.10 (1m 3f 104yd) 1, Sean O'Casey (S De Sousa, 13-8 fav); 2, Stoney Broke (5-1); 3, Silca Star (11-2). 7 ran. NR: Rubensian. 3½, nk, M Appleby.

2.45 (1m 2f) 1, Street Art (Hollie Doyle, 16-1); 2, Tyrsal (8-1); 3, Stun Gun (40-1). 12 ran. NR: Avocet. 1½, 1½, M Murphy.

3.20 (1m 3yd) 1, Kestrel Dot Com (S De Sousa, 11-4 fav); 2, Intrude (9-1); 3, Archie (20-1). 7 ran. NR: Dot Green. 3½, ¾, C Dwyer.

3.50 (1m 3yd) 1, Ross Raith Rover (P Sirigu, 9-2); 2, Rustique (7-2 fav); 3, Castle Talbot (11-1). 7 ran. NR: King

Oswald, Langham, Lemon Thyme, Mulled Wine. Hd, 1½, R Eddery.

4.25 (7f 3yd) 1, Magic Moments (M Harley, 9-2); 2, Tennessee Rose (13-2); 3, Caihoe Star (8-1). 11 ran. NR: Tigerfish. 1l, 2½, A King.

4.55 (7f) 1, Moi Aussie (S De Sousa, 100-30); 2, How's Lucy (13-2); 3, Lawfully (8-1). 10 ran. NR: Top Offer. 1½, hd, M Appleby.

5.25 (6f 3yd) 1, Everkillachy (Hollie Doyle, 13-2); 2, Watodall (18-1); 3, Zavikon (11-2). 14 ran. NR: Frank's Legacy, Prancelina. Nk, nk, J S Moore. Placepot: £186.40. Quadpot: £129.10.

Bath

Going: good (good to soft in places)

5.20 (5f 10yd) 1, Jashma (S W Kelly, 6-1); 2, Secret Agent (13-2); 3, Fethiye Boy (9-2 fav). 9 ran. NR: Exquisite Ruby, Midnightly. 2l, ¾, R Hughes.

5.55 (1m 3f 137yd) 1, Nathania (S W Kelly, 9-2); 2, Beach Break (4-1); 3, Sufi (3-1 fav). 9 ran. NR: Tapdancealltheway. 1½, hd, R Hughes.

6.25 (1m 2f 37yd) 1, Berkeley Vale (R Winston, 11-4); 2, Attain (15-8 fav); 3, Eben Dubai (8-1). 6 ran. NR: Shirataki. 1½, ¾, R A Teal.

6.55 (1m 5f 11yd) 1, Admiral's Sunset (Charlie Bennett, 5-4 fav); 2, Rosie Royale (3-1); 3, Star Of Lombardy (7-2). 4 ran. NR: Notice, Oratorio's Joy, Skylark Lady, Wassail. 7l, 4l, H Morrison.

7.25 (5f 160yd) 1, Zophilly (Martin Lane, 20-1); 2, Diamond Vine (20-1); 3, Majestic Girl (16-1). 13 ran. NR: Allen's Folly, Hurricane Alert, Molly Jones, Thewestwalian. 1½, 1½, J Gask.

7.55 (5f 160yd) 1, Babyfact (Josephine Gordon, 5-1); 2, Incentive (10-1); 3,

Monteamiata (5-4 fav). 7 ran. NR: Go Amber Go, K'gari Spirit, Polkadot Princess. Hd, ¾, M S Saunders.

8.25 (1m) 1, Waves (Edward Greatrex, 16-1); 2, Secret Memories (11-1); 3, Viola Park (10-1). 13 ran. NR: Delirium, Golden Eye, Seeing Things. 4½, hd, Eve Johnson Houghton.

Placepot: £2,482.00. Quadpot: £270.50.

Perth

Going: good

6.05 (2m 4f 35yd hdl) 1, Just Before Dawn (A P Heskin, 1-5 fav); 2, Picture Painter (12-1); 3, Whispering Affair (6-1). 10 ran. 2½, 14l, T George.

6.35 (2m ch) 1, Welcome Ben (Craig Nichol, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, The Pierre Lark (11-1); 3, Tambour Major (6-1). 9 ran. 8l, 11l, Mrs J Stephen.

7.05 (2m 47yd hdl) 1, Gold Chain (Harry Challoner, 4-1); 2, Alizee De Janeiro (7-2); 3, Bahrikate (5-1). 7 ran. 3l, 9l, Mrs D Sayer.

7.35 (2m 4f 20yd ch) 1, Sergeant Pink (Colm McCormack, 16-1); 2, Ryalex (2-1 fav); 3, Jackofhearts (11-2). 9 ran. 3½, 9l, Mrs D Sayer.

8.05 (2m 7f 207yd hdl) 1, Spoils Of War (Blair Campbell, 18-1); 2, Broadway Belle (16-1); 3, Eager To Know (22-1). 14 ran. 6l, nk, Miss L Russell.

8.35 (2m 7f 207yd hdl) 1, Jester Jet (R T Dunne, 4-1); 2, Johnny Go (16-1); 3, Dubai Devils (11-1). 11 ran. 2½, ¾, T Lacey.

9.05 (2m 7f 180yd ch) 1, Creevytennant (Miss L M Pinchin, Evens fav); 2, Monsieur Jourdain (7-2); 3, Wayupinthesky (15-2). 9 ran. 36l, 6l, F O'Brien. Placepot: £173.90. Quadpot: £102.30.

‘Glass ceiling damaging women’s careers’

Mark Souster Racing Writer

Women are held back by a glass ceiling and a lack of career development opportunities, according to the first analysis into diversity in British racing.

The in-depth report, commissioned by Women In Racing, funded by the Racing Foundation and compiled by Oxford Brookes University, highlighted the issues that women face, not least in their representation on boards, and among trainers and jockeys.

The study revealed that women represent only 12 per cent of jockeys,

20 per cent of trainers and 16 per cent of senior executive roles. However, the majority of stable staff are women.

It found evidence from the 400 respondents to the survey, of which 80 per cent were women, of occasional prejudice, bullying and discrimination. It did recognise the modernisation in the sport but felt this needed accelerating, initially through the establishment of an independent steering body.

In response, the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) accepted that it and the sport “have more to do to ensure that it reflects and appeals to the

widest possible audience”. Thirty per cent of the BHA’s board is female and Nick Rust, the chief executive, said that progress had been made, but not enough. The BHA will consider the recommendations and provide an update by the end of July.

“This survey serves as a stark reminder that there is much more that British racing needs to do to ensure that people receive the necessary encouragement, support and opportunities regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, disability or social background,” Rust said.

The announcement was made at York, where on a sodden track Shutter Speed, ridden by Frankie Dettori, won the Tattersalls Musidora Stakes for John Gosden. She will now head to the French Oaks, on June 18 in Chantilly.

● Hughie Morrison has taken the unorthodox approach of offering a £10,000 reward for information to clear his name as he awaits a BHA charge. Morrison’s filly, Our Little Sister, tested positive for a performance-enhancing substance at Wolverhampton in January and the trainer could face a ban of up to ten years if he is found guilty.

Cracksman can hit the target

John Gosden has saddled the past two winners of the Betfred Dante Stakes (3.30) and can complete a treble through **Cracksman** at York today (Rob Wright writes).

A son of Frankel, Cracksman did well to maintain his unbeaten record at Epsom last time, initially outpaced when the tempo increased in a slowly run race before powering home in the closing stages to collar Permian on the line. A true test at this trip should result in him extending his superiority over that rival and Cracksman can move to the head of the Derby market with victory here.

York		
Rob Wright		
2.20 Orient Class	4.35 Brian The Snail	
2.55 So Mi Dar	5.05 Makanah	
3.30 Cracksman	5.35 Gaelic Tiger	
4.05 White Lake (nap)		
Thunder: 3.30 Cracksman. 4.35 Brian The Snail (nap).		
Going: soft Draw: no advantage Racing UK		

2.20 Betfred "Supports Jack Berry House" Handicap (E15,563: 5f) (17 runners)

1	(11)	266-64	DUKE OF FIRENZE 6 (D,F,G,S) D Griffiths 8-9-7	D Allan	91
2	(8)	-31500	POYLE VINNIE 11 (P,D,F,G,S) M Appleby 7-9-6	A Rawlinson	(3) 96
3	(9)	0-0132	ROBOT BOY 33 (D,F,G,S) T D Barron 7-9-6	P Makin	103
4	(5)	02000-	MOVE IN TIME 250 (D,F,G,S) D O'Meara 9-9-4	D Tudhope	103
5	(1)	31-260	JUSTICE GOOD 47 (D,B,F,G,S) D Elsworth 9-9-4	David Egan	(7) 103
6	(17)	1501-4	SOIE D'LEAU 27 (D,F,G,S) K Stubbs 5-9-2	T Hamilton	110
7	(2)	465034	LINE OF REASON 24 (P,C,D,F,G) P Midgley 7-9-1	P Mulrennan	101
8	(13)	120-24	EAST STREET REVUE 11 (B,C,D,F,G,S) T Easterby 4-8-12	P Mulrennan	110
D Fentiman					
9	(4)	0000-6	UNION ROSE 6 (P,C,D,S) R Harris 5-8-11	O Murphy	102
10	(7)	430-34	GAMESOME 12 (S) P Midgley 6-8-10	P J Smullen	◆111
11	(6)	41600-	SNAP SHOTS 222 (D,F,G,S) Tony Coyle 5-8-9	B McHugh	95
12	(10)	000-04	MONT KIARA 29 (H,F,S) K A Ryan 4-8-7	H Bentley	105
13	(14)	/520-1	LOVE ON THE ROCKS 34 (H,D,F) C Hills 4-8-6	Doubtful	107
14	(16)	304/00	RASHEEQ 19 T Easterby 4-8-5	Rachel Richardson	(3) 109
15	(3)	00011-	FAST ACT 220 (D,F,S) K A Ryan 5-8-4	Joe Doyle	104
16	(12)	-00622	ORIENT CLASS 12 (D,F,G,S) P Midgley 6-8-3	C Hardie	107
17	(5)	/1060-	TUMBLEWIND 342 (D,F,G) R Whitaker 7-8-3	F Norton	99

6-1 Duke Of Firenze, 13-2 East Street Revue, 9-1 Gamesome, 10-1 Fast Act, Robot Boy, 12-1 Justice Good, Line Of Reason, Soie D'Leau, 16-1 Mont Kiara, Move In Time, Orient Class, 20-1 others.

Rob Wright's choice: Orient Class ran a cracker when second at Thirk and is just 1lb higher here Dangers: Soie D'Leau, Union Rose

Blinkered first time: Salisbury 2.45 Madam Prancealot. York 4.05 White Lake.

Fontwell Park

Rob Wright

5.10 Frelia	7.15 Man Of Steel
5.40 Amigo	7.60 Darwins Fox
6.10 Excitable Island	8.20 Spencer Moon
6.40 Curraigflemens	

Going: good to soft (soft in places) At The Races.

5.10 Mares' Hunters' Chase (E1,248: 3m 1f 106y) (5)

1	123-1	FRELIA 13 (D) D Gibbs 6-11-12	Mr B Gibbs	(3)
2	65P-P	DISTRACTED 13 (T,P,D) R Thomas 9-11-8	Mr D Andrews	(7)
3	1-3	FLORELLA 17P N Pearce 7-11-8	Mr J Andrews	(5)
4	P43-5	ONCEUPONATHYME 14 (H,P) Miss L Horsfall 9-11-8	Miss N Meek	(7)
5	/F11-	QUEEN OLIVIA 19P (H) Miss V Collins 9-11-8	Mr S Davies-Thomas	(3)

4-6 Frelia, 7-2 Queen Olivia, 6-1 Distracted, Florella, 25-1 Onceuponathyme.

5.40 Hunters' Chase (E1,248: 2m 5f 31y) (5)

1	0331-	DONT DO MONDAYS 33P (T,C,D) M Pearce 10-12-1	Miss B Frost	(3)
2	111-1	GAUVAIN 17P (T,B,C,D) Miss V Collins 15-11-11	Miss L Tickle	(7)
3	4112-	AMIGO 31 (T,B,RF) Mrs L Braithwaite 10-11-7	Miss G Andrews	(4)
4	1022-	BOUND FOR GLORY 25 (H,P) Miss L Horsfall 9-11-8	Miss N Lewis	(5)
5	102-1	NEVER COMPLAIN 17P (P) Mrs F Marshall 9-11-7	Miss T Worsley	(5)

11-4 Amigo, 3-1 Dont Do Mondays, 4-1 Bound For Glory, 5-1 others.

6.10 Novices' Hunters' Chase (E1,248: 3m 1f 106y) (7)

1	212-1	APPLE'S LINGER 18P Mrs S Alner 7-12-0	Mr M McIntyre	(3)
2	2211-	CRACK OF THUNDER 19P (P,D,BF) Miss R Grissell 8-12-0	Miss T Worsley	(5)
3	P11-2	EXCITABLE ISLAND 13 N W Padfield 10-12-0	Miss G Andrews	(4)
4	1031-	SUPREME DANEHILL 47P (P) A Hill 9-12-0	Mr J Hill	(5)
5	P231-	SWINGBRIDGE 25P Miss L Thomas 9-12-0	Mr J Bailey	(3)
6	214-2	SYBARITE 13 Miss V Collins 11-12-0	Mr S Davies-Thomas	(3)
7	123-1	WEST LAKE 17P (T,P) D Phelan 7-12-0	Mr J Andrews	(5)

2-5 Sybarite, 6-1 Excitable Island, 14-1 Crack Of Thunder, 16-1 others.

6.40 Hunters' Chase (E1,248: 2m 5f 31y) (5)

1	P5-31	MOUNTAIN CLICHE 9 N Dawe 10-12-4	Mr D Andrews	(7)
2	321-6	CURRAIGFLEMENS 13 (C) D Kemp 9-12-2	Mr S Davies-Thomas	(3)
3	1212-	BRUNSWICK GOLD 19P (D) S C Robinson 12-12-0	Mr S Robinson	(5)
4	3234-	HAZY TOW 19P (D) Miss K P-Hill 11-12-0	Mr J Sole	(3)
5	54P-4	SWALLOWHIDE 18P (D) J Young 8-12-0	Mr B Paries-Crofts	(7)

13-8 Mountain Cliche, 2-1 Brunswick Gold, 9-4 Hazy Tow, 12-1 others.

7.15 Hunters' Chase (E1,872: 3m 3f 45y) (7)

1	143-1	MAN OF STEEL 17P (T,P) A Hill 8-12-2	Mr J Hill	(5)
2	5125-	MON PARRAIN 33 (T,B,C,B,F) P Nicholls 11-12-0	Mr D Maxwell	(3)
3	PPP-3	TUGBOAT 9 G Slade-Jones 9-12-0	Mr T O'Brien	(3)
4	233-3	HELPOSTAN 24 (T) S R Andrews 13-11-11	Miss G Andrews	(5)
5	/P5-0	LETS GET SERIOUS 13 (C) C Miller 11-11-11	Mr C Miller	(7)
6	131-3	LITTLE CHIP 12P (P) R Bandey 10-11-11	Mrs C Hardwick	(3)
7	4211-	LITTLE LEGEND 31P (P) Mrs C Woods 13-11-11	Mr W Hickman	(7)

8-15 Mon Parrain, 9-4 Man Of Steel, 14-1 Little Chip, Helpostan, 25-1 others.

2.55 Betfred Middleton Stakes (Group II: Fillies and mares: E70,888: 1m 2f 56y) (6)

1	(3)	4233-1	QUEEN'S TRUST (D,F,S) Sir M Stoute 4-9-3	R L Moore	119
2	(5)	11/11-	SMART CALL (D,G) Sir M Stoute 6-9-3	J Crowley	118
3	(2)	00210-	BLOND ME (F,G) A Balding 5-9-0	O Murphy	114
4	(4)	/0511-	CHAIN OF DAISIES 264 (C,D,F,G,S) H Candy 5-9-0	Doubtful	118
5	(6)	/1133-	SO MI DAR (C,D,B,F,G,S) J Gosden 4-9-0	L Dettori	◆125
6	(1)	2231-1	THE BLACK PRINCESS (D,F,G,S) J Gosden 4-9-0	W Buick	114

4-5 So Mi Dar, 9-4 Queen's Trust, 8-1 The Black Princess, 10-1 Smart Call, 14-1 Blond Me.

Wright choice: So Mi Dar won the Musidora here a year ago and was unlucky to lose her unbeaten record at Chantilly Danger: Queen's Trust

3.30 Betfred Dante Stakes (Group II: 3-Y-O: E105,310: 1m 2f 56y) (11)

1	(8)	13	BENBATH 28 (G) S bin Suroor 9-0	P Cosgrave	100
2	(11)	5210-4	CONTRAPPOSTO 28 (S) D Menuisier 9-0	J Fortune	96
3	(5)	1-1	CRACKSMAN 22 (D,G,S) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	97
4	(2)	2-1	CRYSTAL OCEAN 26 (D,F) Sir M Stoute 9-0	A Atzeni	82
5	(3)	213-	EXEMPLAR 235 (T,S) A O'Brien (Ire) 9-0	R L Moore	103
6	(9)	13-1	FOREST RANGER 34 (R) R Fahey 9-0	T Hamilton	89
7	(7)	13-21	PERMIAN 12 (D,F,G) M Johnston 9-0	F Norton	100
8	(1)	210-1	REKINDLING 40 (D,S) J P O'Brien (Ire) 9-0	D O'Brien	◆106
9	(10)	01-	SWISS STORM 243 (S) D Elsworth 9-0	J Crowley	79
10	(6)	11-2	SYPHAX 24 (C,F,G) K A Ryan 9-0	J P Spencer	102
11	(4)	61-1	WOLF COUNTRY (S) C Appleby 9-0	W Buick	97

5-2 Cracksman, 3-1 Crystal Ocean, 13-2 Rekinding, 7-1 Benbath, 8-1 Exemplar, 14-1 Permian, Wolf Country, 16-1 Forest Ranger, Swiss Storm, Slyph, 33-1 Contraposto.

Wright choice: Cracksman did well to win at Epsom after not getting the rub of the green and can follow up Dangers: Benbath, Crystal Ocean

4.05 Betfred TV Hambleton Handicap (Listed: E28,355: 7f 192y) (20)

1	(16)	1223-3	FIRMAMENT 15 (D,F,S) D O'Meara 5-9-7	Josh Doyle	114
2	(15)	11215-	THIKIRYAAT 264 (D,B,F,S) Sir M Stoute 4-9-7	J Crowley	109
3	(11)	540-10	BRAVERY 29 (D,S) D O'Meara 4-9-3	D Tudhope	112
4	(5)	35/66-	WHITE LAKE 320 (B,C,G) R Varian 5-9-1	A Atzeni	111
5	(12)	65104-	HERE COMES WHEN 183 (H,D,F,G,S) A Balding 7-9-1	O Murphy	111
6	(4)	14-126	KEYSTROKE 34 (D,S) J Nosedá 5-9-1	Doubtful	88

7.50 Hunters' Chase (E1,248: 2m 1f 96y) (4)

1	3164-	DARWINS FOX 31 (D) D Christie (Ire) 11-12-4	Mr D Maxwell	(3)
2	2423-	CAN MESTRET 19P (CD) S R Andrews 10-12-0	Miss G Andrews	(3)
3	PPU-4	SAQIL 17P (T) Mrs L J Varnham 9-12-0	Mr W Hickman	(7)
4	PPFF-	VERING 19P (P) Mrs L Pile 11-12-0	Mr F Procter	(7)

1-10 Darwins Fox, 5-1 Can Mestret, 40-1 Saqil, 50-1 Vering.

8.20 Hunters' Chase (E1,248: 2m 5f 31y) (9)

1	-P55F	BALLET MARBLELESS 4P (T,P) J Mead 11-12-0	Mr S Quinlan	(3)
2	361-4	BOYGOJUMPING 17P P Peaty 5-12-0	Mr G Hiscock	(7)
3	6465-	COOLADERBY KING 53P Miss R Grissell 9-12-0	Mr J Rawdon-Mogg	(7)
4	241-2	CREATIVE INERTIA 18P (T) B Clarke 7-12-0	Mr D Andrews	(7)
5	4P1-4	HONOURABLE EXIT 9 J Tickle 10-12-0	Mr N Lawton	(7)
6	2P11-	LETSKEEPIT SIMPLE 19P I Cobb 7-12-0	Mr W Hickman	(7)
7	113-1	SPENCER MOON 4P (P) K Price 9-12-0	Mr M Moorcroft	(7)
8	141-2	TOM BARTON 18P (P) Mrs S Alner 7-12-0	Mr M McIntyre	(3)
9	PP1P-	SHES A GANGSTER 25P (P) D Gibbs 8-11-7	Mr B Gibbs	(3)

13-8 Spencer Moon, 9-2 Honourable Exit, Tom Barton, 6-1 others.

Salisbury

Rob Wright

1.40	Hastenplace	3.55	Your Ladyship
2.10	Scorching Heat	4.25	Elas Ruby (nb)
2.45	Latest Quest	4.55	Panther Patrol
3.20	Lupin	5.25	Lucky Louie

Going: soft Draw: no advantage Racing UK

1.40 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: E4,043: 5f) (14)

3	(4)	2 HEADWAY 27 W Haggas 9-2	R Winston
4	(7)	64 JIM ROCKFORD 12 R Beckett 9-2	F M Berry
5	(5)	JOEGOGO P D Evans 9-2	J Egan
6	(2)	LUNA ECLIPSE A Balding 9-2	L Keniry
7	(9)	REVERBERATION S Kirk 9-2	M Godwin (5)
8	(3)	5 VEGAS BOY 15 (T) J Osborne 9-2	T J Murphy
9	(12)	YOKUSHAN W S Kittow 9-2	M Lane
10	(13)	0 ZALSHAW 34 R Hannan 9-2	Doubtful
11	(10)	4 CRANWORTH PHOENIX 17 B Barr 8-11	S Donohoe
12	(1)	DEVIL OR ANGEL W G M Turner 8-11	R White (5)
13	(6)	Gaelic Spirit J Tufts 8-11	Josephine Gordon
14	(8)	0 HASTENPLACE 18 B Millman 8-11	R Tate

15-8 Headway, 4-1 Bodybuilder, 4-1 Luna Eclipse, 13-2 others.

15-8 Headway, 4-1 Bodybuilder, 6-1 Luna Eclipse, 13-2 others.

2.10 Handicap (3-Y-O: E3,396: 6f) (16)

1	(15)	11105	DANDY FLAME 17 (R) R Hughes 9-9	Finley Marsh	(7)
2	(3)	4315-	SCORCHING HEAT 208 (D) A Balding 9-8	Joshua Bryan	(7)
3	(1)	3041-	COASTAL CYCLONE 168 (H) D Dunlop 9-8	F M Berry	(7)
4	(4)	40-10	GLORY OF PARIS 27 B Millman 9-7	R Tate	
5	(7)	3-1	QATARI RYIALS 40 (D) R Hannan 9-7	P Dobbs	
6	(5)	323-0	KINGS ACADEMY 9 P Cole 9-7	D C Costello	
7	(8)	32-12	COMPRISE 23 (D) Michael Bell 9-7	Doubtful	
8	(6)	242-1	OTOMO 16 (D) P Hyde 9-6	L Keniry	
9	(10)	302-5	NIBRAS AARAS 13 M Mohammed 9-6	T Marquand	
10	(13)	0421-	FOKXCATHER 213 (B) Clive Cox 9-4	H Crouch	(3)
11	(16)	24-21	RED ALERT 84 (D) J Tufts 9-4	Josephine Gordon	
12	(2)	35-12	MONTEAMATA 17 E Walker 9-4	T Brown	
13	(11)	105-3	MISS ICON 15 P Chamings 9-3	D Muscetti	
14	(14)	-0026	STRINGYBARK CREEK 17 M Channon 8-10	J Egan	
15	(12)	060-6	HARBOUR TOWN 89 H Dunlop 8-8	Doubtful	
16	(9)	135-6	REBEL HEART 23 (V) W G M Turner 8-7	J Quinn	

6-1 Foxcatcher, 7-1 Qatari Ryials, 8-1 Coastal Cyclone, 10-1 others.

ITV4

7	(20)	02-004	TOP NOTCH TONTO 19 (T,C,D,F,G,S) B Ellison 7-8-13	B A Curtis	111
8	(9)	2/164-	VICTORY BOND (S) W Haggas 4-8-12	P Cosgrave	108
9	(18)	3202-6	GET KNOTTED 12 (P,C,D,F,G,S) M Dods 5-8-12	P Mulrennan	115
10	(8)	004-30	DONNCHA 26 (D,F,G,S) R Eddery 6-8-12	P J Smullen	115
11	(3)	/1110-	MURAD KHAN 201 (D,G,S) H Palmer 4-8-11	W Buick	114
12	(13)	502-02	ANOTHER TOUCH 26 (D,F,G) R Fahey 4-8-9	P Hanagan	◆116
13	(2)	00014-	CAN'T CHANGE IT 219 (D,B,F,G,S) D Simcock 6-8-9	J P Spencer	114
14	(10)	24-051	COTE D'AZUR 12 (C,D,F,G,S) L Eyre 4-8-9	P McDonald	115
15	(7)	2200-0	INSTANT ATTRACTION 47 (D,S) Jedd O'Keefe 6-8-9	J Garritty	111
16	(1)	1/21-P	CHELSEA LAD 26 (D,B,F,S) M Meade 4-8-8	R Kingscote	115
17	(17)	6523-0	HOME CUMMINS 26 (P,C,D,F,G) R Fahey 5-8-7	Sammy Jo Bell	113
18	(19)	0620-0	GLORY AWAITS 16 (B,D,F,G,S) D Simcock 7-8-7	H Bentley	115
19	(14)	6450-0	HAVRE DE PAIX 26 (D) D Menuisier 5-8-7	F Norton	113
20	(6)	516-60	STRONG STEPS 30 (P,D) R G Fell 5-8-7	A Mullen	106

6-1 Thikriyaat, 8-1 Chelsea Lad, 9-1 Firmament, 10-1 Another Touch, Cote D'Azur, Donncha, Murad Khan, Victory Bond, 14-1 Top Notch Tonto, White Lake, 16-1 Can't Change It, 20-1 others.

Wright choice: White Lake won on his only previous start here and remains unexposed under these conditions Dangers: Top Notch Tonto, Murad Khan

Sport Tennis

Slower serve and poor movement: reasons behind Murray's slump

Stuart Fraser Tennis Writer, Rome

Andy Murray departed Rome for London yesterday morning with much uncertainty as to why it has gone wrong for him on the court this year.

The previous night, Murray had sat in the press conference room at the Foro Italico, after defeat in his opening match at the Italian Open, fielding pertinent questions as to how he has failed this year to achieve the level of consistency that is expected from the world's best player. "There is no reason for it from my end," Murray insisted. "I'm just not playing good tennis and I need to try and work out how to turn that around."

Murray has 11 days to figure it out, with the assistance of Ivan Lendl, his coach who arrives in Europe this weekend, if he is to be a contender at Roland Garros. When Murray began the new season in January, one of his biggest goals was to complete his grand-slam collection by winning the Australian Open and French Open titles. The former quickly slipped by and the latter is in danger of going the same way.

When one searches for the answer as to why Murray, who turned 30 on Monday, has experienced the worst start to a year by a world No 1 since Pete Sampras, the American great, in 1999, we must go back to November.

Murray had ended the season at The O₂ arena in London with a stunning run of 24 consecutive wins in two months to sit top of the rankings for the first time. Little over a fortnight after this remarkable physical effort had concluded, he was back in Miami for his punishing annual training block.

Under the guidance of Lendl, there was no let-up for an exhausted Murray, who later admitted with hindsight that he may have overdone it. A month later, Murray looked listless as he was bundled out of the fourth round of the Australian Open by the left-handed serve and volleying of Mischa Zverev, the type of opponent who would normally be bread and butter for the Briton.

It is perhaps not coincidental that physical issues have lingered this year. Murray suffered a bout of shingles in February and then was forced to with-

draw from the Miami Masters in March with an elbow injury, which left him unable to serve for a fortnight.

Murray's serve has still not fully recovered. His accuracy is not quite as precise and the speed of his second serve, which had vastly improved last year, has dropped. In his past two matches, Murray has won just 37.1 per cent and 35 per cent of second-serve points respectively. Only once was he below those numbers in his 21 matches on clay in 2016.

Even Murray's return game, regarded as one of the best ever, seems to have suffered. Against Fabio Fognini on Tuesday, he was two points away from failing to break serve for the first time in 130 matches since August 2015. Murray's figure of 32.7 per cent of return points won in that match is his lowest on clay since losing to Novak Djokovic in the semi-finals of the French Open in 2015.

A useful barometer of Murray's confidence is the way that he hits his forehand, which recently has not been particularly potent. Of even greater concern, though, was his admission that moving around the court, such a strong area of his game usually, is a struggle. "Fabio did play some good drop shots, but I wasn't actually making a move or a step towards the ball," Murray said on Tuesday. "That's not a good sign."

The temptation for some observers is to conclude that Murray has crumbled under the pressure of having the No 1 next to his name, although he has been repeatedly adamant in recent weeks that this is not the case. Rafael Nadal, who has bounced back from his own struggles, concurs with his good friend.

"I don't think being No 1 affects play [being] a little worse," Nadal, the 14-times grand-slam champion, said. "But, at the same time, it's so difficult to be on the top of your game and mentality for every week. He had an unbelievable year last year, especially in the last part of the season without losing a match."

"That is tough. Physically, mentally, it's tough to do what he did at the end of his season. He probably was a little bit tired after that. But he is a great player. He will be ready for Roland Garros, he has one week and a half to practise and he will be one of the candidates."

His struggles since he became world No 1

Andy Murray has had the worst start to a year of any world No 1 since Pete Sampras in 1999. The good news for Murray is that Sampras won Wimbledon that year.

Year	World No 1	Win %
2017	Andy Murray	70.8
2016	Novak Djokovic	92.5
2015	Novak Djokovic	94.7
2014	Rafael Nadal	85.3
2013	Novak Djokovic	87.5
2012	Novak Djokovic	85.7
2011	Rafael Nadal	86
2010	Roger Federer	76
2009	Rafael Nadal	91.1
2008	Roger Federer	79.4
2007	Roger Federer	75
2006	Roger Federer	92.6
2005	Roger Federer	95.3
2004	Andy Roddick	82
2003	Lleyton Hewitt	87.5
2002	Lleyton Hewitt	78.5
2001	Gustavo Kuerten	82.3
2000	Andre Agassi	79.1
1999	Pete Sampras	62.5
1998	Pete Sampras	79.3
1997	Pete Sampras	80.7



Murray's present total of 10,360 points is one of the lowest held by a world No 1 in recent years. However, Djokovic, Nadal and Stan Wawrinka still cannot catch up until the end of Wimbledon, even if Murray loses in the first round at the French Open and at Queen's Club.

With much work to do, Murray and Lendl will reunite this weekend, and

about time too. The re-hiring of Lendl last year came at great expense, yet he has only been seen once at a tournament this year, in Melbourne four months ago. Although Jamie Delgado, Murray's assistant coach, must receive much credit for the part he has played in helping Murray to get to the very top, it is curious that Lendl has not appeared earlier during this clay-court swing.

It may help flick a much-needed switch. After all, Murray may be one big win away from turning his season around, according to Mark Petchey, his former coach. "Tennis is a very fickle sport," Petchey said. "It only takes one great performance for someone as good as Andy to feel like he's certainly going to be a massive contender at the French Open."

Sharapova sponsor supports French Open's wild card refusal

CONTINUED FROM BACK

claimed she had taken for ten years because of a family history of heart issues and diabetes, should not have been made a prohibited substance.

"I fully support the grand-slam tournament's decision," Eliasch said. "I don't think there should be wild cards for doping offenders. Yes, I am disappointed, but rules are rules. What also disappoints me is the fact that Wada has not conducted their business properly, that disappoints me more than the fact that Maria is not playing."

"What I think is still very wrong is the fact that Wada has been allowed to

enforce the rule without any form of evidence or clinical testing. If Wada is to have any credibility, they have to stick to their own rules."

"This issue with Maria and the French Open, that is a consequence of Wada breaching their own rules for a delinquent way of operating."

Wada has always insisted, however, that the proper procedures were followed, and a spokesman said last night: "The Wada List Expert Group undertook a very thorough consultation process in 2015. Following this process, it was determined that meldonium was being used by athletes with the intent of enhancing performance. Meldonium met the required criteria to

“If this is what it takes to rise up again, then I am in it all the way, everyday. No words, games, or actions will ever stop me from reaching my own dreams. And I have many”
Maria Sharapova's statement

be added to the list — this included evidence of its use by athletes with the intention of enhancing performance. There is no question whatsoever as to the status of meldonium as a prohibited

substance. It remains on the prohibited list."

Sharapova's response yesterday to being denied a wild card for the French Open was one of defiance, with the two-times Roland Garros champion posting a short statement on Twitter. "If this is what it takes to rise up again, then I am in it all the way, everyday," it read. "No words, games, or actions will ever stop me from reaching my own dreams. And I have many."

Bernard Giudicelli, the president of the FFT, had stated that he was not comfortable with giving a wild card to a player who has only recently returned from a 15-month doping suspension. Bizarrely, this provoked criticism from

the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) chief executive, Steve Simon. "What I do not agree with is the basis put forward by the FFT for their decision with respect to Maria Sharapova. She has complied with the sanction imposed by CAS [the Court of Arbitration for Sport]," Simon said. "The tennis anti-doping programme [TADP] is a uniform effort supported by the grand slams, WTA, ITF and ATP. There are no grounds for any member of the TADP to penalise any player beyond the sanctions set forth in the final decisions resolving these matters."

Sharapova must wait until June 20 to find out if she has been given a wild card for the main draw at Wimbledon.

'Southgate is trying to change England but the mentality is buried deep'

As he heads for retirement this weekend, Xabi Alonso tells **Matt Dickinson** why the game is about intelligence not physicality

Photograph: Marc Aspland



There is a vintage BMW R100 motorbike sitting in a garage waiting for its owner to rev it up and ride it down the highway. Xabi Alonso is looking forward to opening the throttle. "Well, I have to pass my test first," he smiles. "But I've already done the theory. I'm almost ready to go."

This weekend, almost two decades after a teenage Alonso gave up his two-wheeled machine to focus on making the most of himself as a footballer, one of the best players of his generation will ride off after 18 seasons in which he has not only won so much but accomplished it all with such class, such style.

When Alonso decided it was time to announce his imminent retirement, he wondered which moment he would use to accompany the message on Twitter. Would it be the jaw-dropping comeback in Istanbul to win the Champions League with Liverpool in 2005? How about the celebrated *La Decima* with Real Madrid in 2014? Or his most recent back-to-back Bundesliga championships with Bayern Munich?

But, then, how could Alonso possibly overlook the 2010 World Cup with Spain, when he started every game, which was the crowning glory of his country's unprecedented hat-trick of international triumphs? How could one picture sum up a career? With characteristic thought, Alonso grabbed a pair of boots, wandered over to the park pitch near his home in Munich where his nine-year-old son plays at weekends.

Using a phone, his wife took a black and white picture of Alonso, boots in one hand, shy little wave with the other. "Lived it. Loved it. Farewell beautiful game," he posted.

"I couldn't pick one photo of my career," he says. "So I thought, 'Let's go back to where it all started, a normal football pitch, with my boots. Let's finish where it began, where the kids play.'"

It was perfectly done, with no PR hullabaloo; elegant, uncomplicated. It is the same when we sit down in the sunshine at Munich's relaxed training ground on Säbener Strasse to discuss all that Alonso has achieved, and what happens next.

As Philipp Lahm chats a few yards away about his own retirement, Alonso is still not sure what emotions will hit him against Freiburg on Saturday, the last professional game of his life.

But, as he counts down every training session, the finale feels right. At 35, he wanted to bow out at the top, not dragging out his career in China for any amount of money. He hoped to go out on a high — lifting the Bundesliga with Bayern is close enough to the peak.

Retirement propels many sportsmen into a scary void. "I am at peace with myself," he says. "When I have time to reflect, I know the memories will be good ones."

Regrets? Well, not quite too few to mention. "Maybe I have three," he says. "With Real Sociedad, my club, we were one game from winning La Liga [in 2002-03]. With Liverpool we were so close to the Premier League. With Bayern, so close to the Champions League. But maybe that would be too much to ask, too perfect. If you can call them regrets... but that's

just football. When I look back, I can be happy that I've done what I wanted, dictated my path."

A new direction awaits, and one that will surely take him into coaching. If ever a man seemed hand-crafted for guiding the next generation, it is this most wise of footballers.

Not so fast, Alonso says. First he wants a long break, a proper year out after so many years of physical and mental intensity. "Sometimes I think about the games too much," he says. "I've lost a lot of sleep thinking about matches for days before, days after."

There is that motorbike to ride, perhaps some skiing, travel with his family. His son, Jontxu, "a little Scouser" born in Liverpool, is demanding that his father takes him to see the new main stand at Anfield. "I've spent my life trying to squeeze everything into four weeks in summer," he says. "Now I don't have to plan anything. I have weekends for the first time in 18 years. My wife is thrilled."

But you would bet a lot of money on the game drawing him back, and Alonso seeking to pass on all he has learnt from all those years as the cerebral midfield fulcrum of some of the world's biggest clubs.

Alonso is the boy from the Basque country



Alonso announced his retirement on Twitter with this picture, writing "farewell, beautiful game"

Alonso's roll of honour

Spain	
114 caps	16 goals
Honours	
World Cup, European Championship (2)	
Real Sociedad	Liverpool
124 games	210 games
10 goals	18 goals
Honours	
Champions League, FA Cup, Super Cup	
Real Madrid	Bayern Munich
236 games	116 games
6 goals	9 goals
Honours	
League title, Champions League, Copa Del Rey (2)	
League title (3), German Cup	

who came to England in 2004, aged 23. His Liverpool debut came in a bruising defeat by Bolton Wanderers. "I remember [after] 15, 20 minutes I think it was a Kevin Nolan tackle, a 'welcome to the Premier League tackle,'" he laughs. "Then there was [Jussi] Jaaskelainen from his kicks, not even trying to pass, just long balls up to Kevin Davies. I said to myself, 'This is different. OK, Xabi, you want to make it here, become a pro with Liverpool you need to learn fast.'" He won the Champions League, unforgettably, at the end of his first season.

From those five seasons at Anfield, Alonso developed a deep fondness for English football. But it is not a blind loyalty.

That overt physicality still makes Alonso shake his head with bemusement. We chat about Steven Gerrard's recent promise to knock out the "showboating mentality" among Liverpool's under-18s. It is a matter of emphasis and Alonso's is clear.

"You need to be up for the game but, for me, it's about intelligence," he says. "If you are afraid of contact, for sure you won't make it. But the most important thing is to understand the game, like why I need to play a short pass here, a longer pass there. Why take this position not that one. Try to understand the game around you. That's my idea."

It is a reminder that he once gave an interview despairing that a young player in the Liverpool academy had cited the tackle as his greatest strength. "Tackling isn't a quality to aspire to," he said, in a perfectly pitched challenge to English footballing culture.

"It was a great controversy," Alonso says. "And I stick with my opinion. I don't refuse the tackle. I love a good tackle. But it's the last resort."

"It's much better to avoid the tackle. Try to anticipate. How many times does [Barcelona's Sergio] Busquets tackle in his position? He's so ahead of the game, he doesn't need to."

"In England you love to roar, 'Aaagghhhh,' it's part of your game. But it needs to progress like we see with German players now, more adaptable, more flair. You see the success they had at the World Cup, and that was a ten-year process. England, it's taking longer. You have good young players, [Gareth] Southgate is trying to bring a different way that I like. But the mentality is buried deep."

It would help, he says, if British players travelled more, as he has done. "Who does it? [Gareth] Bale has done it and been a big success but, in the past 20 years, how many other great players abroad? How many since David Platt? But you have everything you want in England, money, famous clubs, so players don't try to find something else abroad," he says.

Asked to name his favourite young English player, he instantly alights on the versatility and composure of Eric Dier, who just happens to have learnt his game in Portugal.

Such a fine player in his own right, with those beautifully stroked passes, Alonso insists that he was most useful for what he could bring out of others. "My job? To be a solution for my teammates," he says. "I wasn't going to be the player to dribble past two opponents and strike from 30 yards. For the ones that could, I could make their job easier. My idea was never about my game individually. It was always about that collective. If I do this, how does it help the team?"

It is another reason why he seems so well suited to coaching, having spent so many years understanding how a team ticks. "It doesn't mean I am going to be a great coach," he says. "But will it help? You would hope so."

Additionally, he has worked under some of the most renowned coaches of the past 20 years — Rafa Benitez, José Mourinho, Pep Guardiola,



Time to reflect: Alonso says that he will take few

Carlo Ancelotti — and in so many different systems, always the brain of his team.

He hates to compare those managers, declining to be drawn into moral arguments about which style is better. "What mattered to me wasn't which style they used but having a clear vision," he says. "It's all about making the players believe in your ideas."

"Right way, wrong way? You need to know your players. With the national team, [Andrés] Iniesta, [David] Villa, [David] Silva, we couldn't play counterattack and run 50 metres. We had to play in their half, to keep control. With Madrid, we had [Gareth] Bale, [Karim] Benzema,



regrets into retirement, but one is being unable to win the Premier League with Liverpool

“I love a good tackle, but it’s the last resort. It’s much better to avoid it, anticipate. How many times does Busquets tackle? He’s so far ahead of the game that he doesn’t need to

[Ángel] Di María and Cristiano [Ronaldo]. That’s very different.”

He has not started his coaching badges but, as he moves back to Spain this summer and a life split between San Sebastián and Madrid, the Spanish federation will fast-track him. His mind whirs with ideas. “I have never used sport psychology,” he says. “Maybe it would have helped sometimes when my form was not so good or thinking too hard. That’s a part where football can really develop, in my view.”

He mentions Paris Saint-Germain’s collapse to Barcelona in the Champions League, where they lost the second leg 6-1 to lose 6-5

What they said about the pass master

“Xabi you are pure quality. A class act on the pitch and a gentlemen off it. It was a pleasure to play alongside you and I missed you every day from the moment you left the reds.”

Steven Gerrard

“Sad day when a legend like @xabialonso retires from the game. He always told me to relax and use my brain, it didn’t always work,”

Jamie Carragher

“Xabi Alonso is one of the greats of world football. He has won everything there is to win during his career. He’s a thoroughly remarkable person, and a gentleman of the game.”

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Bayern chief executive

on aggregate. “That fear of losing,” he says. “We could all see it, so, mentally, how do you prepare better to cope with that? Physically, at the top, football is so well developed. Technically, tactically too. Mentally, I don’t know exactly how we can move it on, but I’d like to explore.”

Another thought process is how best to develop young players in an environment where the fame and riches grow with each year, turning heads. Alonso puts his own balance down to family. His father, Periko, was a footballer — he played for Real Sociedad and Barcelona — who made his son finish his homework before going out to play.

“Because my father was a player too it was easier for me, watching that on a daily basis, to deal with the football life. For players who came from difficult backgrounds, neighbourhoods, the transformation is so huge that I can understand that you lose your way. I have some sympathy.

“That’s why the people around, an agent, staff from the club, you need to protect young players. That’s part of management. You can’t be a policeman but you have to guide. But it’s easy to talk. The best thing is to show the right way.”

As a career to follow, you could not do much better than look to Alonso, though, unusually, there is no autobiography.

“To write an interesting book, you need to tell too much,” he says. “Some part of me is shy as well. I like to preserve some parts for me.”

It is not that he lacks opinions — far from it — but ask him to pick a best XI of team-mates over his career and he looks pained, saying that just at centre forward, it is impossible to choose between Fernando Torres, Robert Lewandowski, Villa, Benzema and more. “Imagine the texts I get,” he says. “Do I need that?”

He is not interested in the froth, the superficial noise, of football but in real accomplishment and improvement. It is why he wants that proper break to recharge. His good friend, Mikel Arteta, jumped at the chance to go straight into coaching under Guardiola but despite Ancelotti offering to take him under his wing, Alonso is insistent that he will take a long pause. “Whatever I try, I want to feel it from my guts, to feel strongly about it,” he says. “I want to get it right. I won’t rush.”

So he will ride off into the sunset on Saturday evening, to reflect and think. He will sort out those two big sacks of swapped shirts that have been piled up over the years.

He will enjoy his break, talking about a car rally he would love to join. But one day, surely, he will be back in elite football. Alonso as the successful coach of an intelligent, passing team is not at all hard to imagine.



Pochettino: Spurs won’t spend big

Darren Witcoop

Mauricio Pochettino has admitted that Tottenham Hotspur will have to rely on unearthing more players like Dele Alli rather than spending huge fees on transfers if they are to compete with their Premier League rivals.

The club’s annual wage bill is about half that of Arsenal, their north London rivals, and Manchester City, while Liverpool, Manchester United and Chelsea pay out even more. Those clubs have also spent much more on transfer fees.

Alli cost only £5 million when he was signed from MK Dons, the League One club, two years ago but has since developed into a key figure for England and Spurs. “If some club is paying double the salary [for players we want to sign], how can you convince them?” said Pochettino, whose side are away to Leicester City tonight.

“That is the reality. It’s true that you need younger players. Dele Alli chose to come here instead of another club, but we took a big risk with Dele. Now he is a massive player, one of the most important players in England. But who took the risk? Us.”

Tottenham’s success since Pochettino took charge in May 2014 means a number of his players are now targets for bigger spending clubs with Kyle Walker, the right back, linked with a summer move to Manchester City where he would almost certainly double his salary. “We have our [transfer] targets and we will see if we can achieve them,” Pochettino said.

The manager, though, insists that there is no chance of him growing frustrated at the financial constraints of his job and leaving. Pochettino has been linked with Barcelona and Inter Milan. “There is no buy-out clause in my contract, I will stay here next season,” he said. “I am committed with the club.”

Leicester City (probable; 4-4-2): K Schmeichel — D Simpson, Y Benalouane, C Fuchs, B Chilwell — R Mahrez, D Amartey, W Ndidi, M Albrighton — S Okazaki, J Vardy.

Tottenham Hotspur (probable; 4-2-3-1): H Lloris — E Dier, T Alderweireld, J Vertonghen, B Davies — M Dembélé, V Wanyama — C Eriksen, D Alli, Son Heung-min — H Kane.

Referee M Oliver.

TV Sky Sports 1 from 7.30pm, kick-off 7.45pm.

Howe wants Chelsea pair

Paul Joyce

Bournemouth are ready to begin their summer recruitment drive by targeting Nathan Aké and Asmir Begovic, the Chelsea pair, in a deal worth more than £30million.

Eddie Howe will look to resurrect a long-standing interest in Aké, the defender, and Begovic, the goalkeeper, whom he wanted to sign in January.

Aké played ten Premier League games for Bournemouth earlier this season before being recalled early from his loan spell by Antonio Conte, the Chelsea head coach, in January, but has featured just five times for the champions.

The 22-year-old Dutch defender is keen to play regular first-team football but it could take an offer of £20million for Chelsea to let him leave.

Begovic, Chelsea’s reserve goalkeeper, is valued at nearer £12million and he would challenge Artur Boruc, Bournemouth’s 37-year-old, who is the club’s No1.

Impressive Romero saves United

Southampton	0
Manchester United	0

Premier League
Henry Winter Chief Football Writer

That's Entertainment seeped out of the speakers at St Mary's, almost sheepishly, after the final whistle. Manchester United's formidable away following might not have appreciated the choice after making such a problematic journey to witness a stale, unambitious performance completely out of keeping with their famous tradition. At least Southampton had a go, and would have won but for the brilliance of Sergio Romero, United's goalkeeper. That's containment.

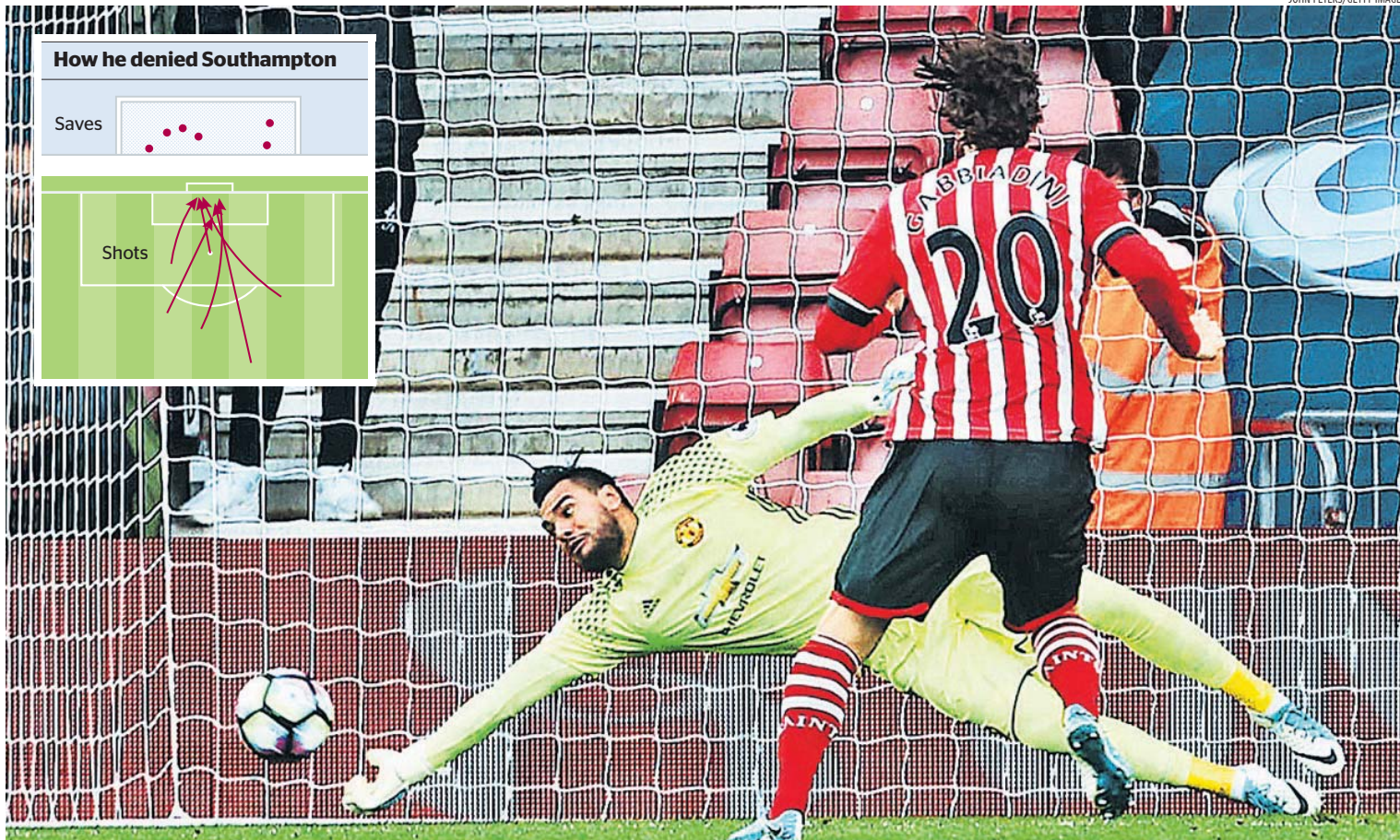
United supporters created more entertainment than their team with their constant singing, and unconditional vocal support. They know this is José Mourinho's United, recording their 15th Premier League draw of the season, their sixth scoreless in all competitions, resting talent. They played with minimal pace in attack, barring Anthony Martial, and with a left back in Matteo Darmian seemingly scared of crossing the halfway line. Mourinho, the arch-pragmatist, was focused only on the Europa League final next week. Mourinho enjoys pressure and he's certainly heaped more on himself for Stockholm.

United played as if they all knew the starting XI for the Europa League final, and either they did not want to risk injury by over-exerting themselves (although Marouane Fellaini felt his hamstring tighten) or they simply felt the door was closed.

Yet there is a vacancy at centre back. With Eric Bailly suspended next week and Marcos Rojo absent injured, neither Chris Smalling nor Phil Jones particularly made an unanswerable case for their inclusion alongside Daley Blind at centre back. Jones probably edged it but there is still the fear of how he would handle Ajax's pace.

The point moved United to 66 points, the same as under Louis van Gaal last season, although with Sunday's match against Crystal Palace to come when Mourinho said he will play the kids. If Joel Pereira, United's third-choice goalkeeper, does start that dead-rubber match, then Old Trafford may have seen the last of David De Gea, although Mourinho insisted last night that he was staying, despite all the talk about Real Madrid's interest.

De Gea is a magnificent goalkeeper but there cannot be many better second choices than Romero. Mourinho's belief in Romero was heightened by another reminder of the 30-year-old's quality after five minutes. He would be No 1 at most clubs. Even taking into account the issues with Argentinian



No way past: Romero dives the right way to save Gabbiadini's early penalty last night in a game where yet again Mourinho's United were found wanting in attack

goalkeeping, Romero's collection of 87 international caps also signals his ability.

He showed it here when facing Manolo Gabbiadini's penalty after Bailly handled Cédric Soares's long ball. The offence was outside the box but it was still a bizarre mistake by Bailly, such a talented defender, who had plenty of time to watch the ball dropping towards him. Gabbiadini ran in, and sent the penalty towards the bottom corner. Agile and focused, Romero dived to his right, stretching out his right hand to push the ball around the base of the post. It was not simply his athleticism and anticipation in reaching the ball but Romero's strong wrist that allowed him to divert the danger.

As Jones led the congratulations of Romero, Southampton fans sighed at their third missed spot-kick in five games. "Very frustrating watching us take pens," tweeted Southampton legend Matt Le Tissier. Having converted 48 of his 49 penalties during his long, distinguished career here, Le Tissier could give the present generation some lessons at their training ground. When a fan stuck a penalty past the mascot Sammy Saint in the half-time competition, Southampton supporters chanted: "Sign him up."

After Romero's save, it was Fraser

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Chelsea (C)	37	29	3	5	80	32	48	90
Tottenham	36	24	8	4	73	24	49	80
Man City	37	22	9	6	75	39	36	75
Liverpool	37	21	10	6	75	42	33	73
Arsenal	37	22	6	9	74	43	31	72
Man United	37	17	15	5	52	29	23	66
Everton	37	17	10	10	61	41	20	61
Southampton	37	12	10	15	41	47	-6	46
West Brom	37	12	9	16	42	49	-7	45
Bournemouth	37	12	9	16	54	66	-12	45
Leicester City	36	12	7	17	46	56	-10	43
West Ham	37	11	9	17	45	63	-18	42
Crystal Palace	37	12	5	20	50	61	-11	41
Stoke City	37	10	11	16	40	56	-16	41
Burnley	37	11	7	19	38	53	-15	40
Watford	37	11	7	19	40	63	-23	40
Swansea	37	11	5	21	43	69	-26	38
Hull City (R)	37	9	7	21	36	73	-37	34
Middlesbrough (R)	37	5	13	19	27	50	-23	28
Sunderland (R)	37	6	6	25	28	64	-36	24

Forster's turn to show his capabilities. Bailly demonstrated the many positives in his game, sprinting to the edge of Southampton's box, beating some ineffectual challenges, and then driving in a left-footed shot that Forster punched away, much to the home fans' relief.

St Mary's was not completely full but United sold their allocation, and the

numbers, and decibel level, were swelled by the presence of the Kenyan national rugby sevens squad, who seemed particular devotees of Wayne Rooney. One deaf thug by United's captain brought whoops of joy, as did his turn away from Jack Stephens and pass to Martial.

United were largely going through the motions, as all their thoughts were focused on Stockholm. It felt as if they were fulfilling a contractual obligation, or playing a testimonial game. A rather shapeless, forgettable half ended with Romero clutching a Nathan Redmond shot.

The Romero show continued after the break. Within seven minutes, James Ward-Prowse was touching a free kick on the right and Dusan Tadic sent the ball spinning goalwards but again Romero was equal to it. Then Redmond cut in from the left, nudged the ball to the outstanding Oriol Romeu, whose strike was pushed away by Romero. The goalkeeper then used both hands to palm away Ward-Prowse's curling effort from the edge of the area.

Even taking into account United's apparent lack of interest, Southampton were moving forward with pleasing purpose, earning applause from their manager, Claude Puel. Given the

increasing talk about Puel's future, such adventurous football was well timed. Yet the sound of many fans laughing when their manager was hit in the face by a stray ball hardly signalled much affection for him. Southampton have scored only twice in their past five games.

United slowly awoke, remembering that this was not a pre-season friendly. Smalling strode down the right and crossed for Rooney, who hesitated and decided to work the ball back to Juan Mata. His shot disappeared wide.

Mourinho wanted more control in the centre, so gave Michael Carrick his 700th club appearance, sending him on for Axel Tuanzebe, and then tried to give his team some pace in attack by bringing on Marcus Rashford. Martial did hit a post but this was toothless from United. That's not entertainment.

Southampton (4-2-3-1): F Forster 6 — C Soares 6 (sub: J Pied 69min, 6) M Yoshida 6, J Stephens 7, M Targett 7 — O Romeu 6, S Davis 6 — D Tadic 6, J Ward-Prowse 7 (sub: S Boufal 77), N Redmond 7 — M Gabbiadini 5 (sub: J Rodriguez 62, 6). **Substitutes not used** M Hassen, J Clasie, C Austin, M Cáceres. **Booked** Romeu.
Manchester United (4-2-3-1): S Romero 8 — E Bailly 6, P Jones 7, C Smalling 6, M Darmian 6 — A Tuanzebe 6 (sub: M Carrick 64, 6), M Fellaini 6 (sub: A Herrera 75) — J Mata 7 (sub: M Rashford 69, 6), H Mkhitaryan 6, A Martial 6 — W Rooney 7. **Substitutes not used** J Pereira, J Lingard, D Mitchell, S McTominay. **Booked** Jones.
Referee M Dean. **Attendance** 31,425.

Mourinho eager to keep hold of 'top in the world' De Gea

Alex Crook, Paul Hirst, Martyn Ziegler

José Mourinho said that he was determined to hold on to David De Gea this summer despite leaving the Spain goalkeeper out of his squad for last night's draw with Southampton amid reported interest from Real Madrid.

De Gea, 26, has been heavily linked with a move back to the Spanish capital, where he came through the ranks at Atletico Madrid and into the first team before leaving for Old Trafford in 2011.

However, Mourinho said last night: "David is top in the world and obviously we want to keep the top in the world."

In De Gea's absence at St Mary's, Sergio Romero saved a penalty on his way to keeping a clean sheet. The Argentinian has featured regularly in United's Europa League campaign this season and Mourinho strongly suggested that he would retain his place in the final, against Ajax on Wednesday, while 20-year-old Joel Pereira will see out the Premier League campaign on Sunday.

"I hope to play Joel against Crystal Palace," Mourinho said. "I hope to play Sergio in the final. Hopefully we don't have problems with these two 'keepers'."

Mourinho also launched a fresh attack on the Premier League by accus-

ing them of hindering his team's bid for Europa League glory. He is unhappy that the Palace match has not been brought forward 24 hours to give his players longer to prepare for Wednesday's final, in Stockholm.

"In any country in the world the match would be Saturday because we are sixth no matter what and Crystal Palace are safe," the manager said. "I hope you don't kill me when you see my team."

Asked if United had appealed directly to the Premier League for the game

to be switched, Mourinho said: "When I know a battle is lost I don't fight a battle."

17
Matches won by United. Even if they win their final game, it will be their lowest number of wins in a Premier League season

Mourinho pleaded with his opposite number, Sam Allardyce, to "go soft on us". "I hope Big Sam shows he is a good friend and he asks Wilfried Zaha to go slow and leaves Christian Benteke at home," he said. "I will bring in [Demetri] Mitchell, [Scott]

McTominay, of course Axel [Tuanzebe], of course Eric Bailly, [Matty] Wil-

lock will come too, Josh Harrop will come, Zachary [Dearnley] will come."

Michael Keane, the former United centre back, is set to become Mourinho's first summer signing. United and Burnley are said by sources to be "very close" to agreeing a deal of about £25 million for the 24-year-old. United have been keeping a close eye on Keane since they sold him to Burnley for about £2 million in September 2014.

Uefa confirmed yesterday that Manchester United would receive the Europa League trophy on the pitch in Stockholm if they beat Ajax next Wednesday, rather than in the stands.

Watford may target Silva as Mazzarri replacement

CONTINUED FROM BACK

five years since they bought the club. Silva has caught Watford's attention because of the impressive manner in which he revitalised Hull, as well as his approachable character and excellent command of English, a marked contrast to the club's experience under Mazzarri.

Silva, from Portugal, has a contract at Hull until the end of next season, but it contains a release clause enabling him to leave in the event of relegation from the Premier League and he refused to commit himself to the club when their demotion to the Sky Bet Championship was confirmed by defeat away to Crystal Palace on Sunday.

Slutsky is available after leaving CSKA Moscow last year and has spent much of the past few months in London with a view to securing a Premier League job.

Roberto Mancini and Claudio Ranieri are also out of work and would consider any approach from Watford, although it is unlikely that Slavisa Jokanovic would return to the club who sacked him two years ago despite having a release clause that enables him to leave Fulham after their elimination from the Championship play-offs.

Watford's decision to sack Mazzarri was not taken lightly despite the Pozzo's trigger-happy reputation and was due to a combination of dramatically deteriorating results and the collapse of his relationship with the club's players.

The 55-year-old Italian never developed a strong bond with his players throughout his season in charge and it is understood that several of them would have sought to leave in the summer had he stayed as head coach.

Mazzarri's relationship with Troy Deeney, the cap-

Mazzarri had a poor relationship with the players

Head coach's poor record

Mazzarri won fewer points per league game than any Watford head coach hired by the Pozzo family

	Days in charge	Pts per game
G Zola	527	1.55
G Sannino	256	1.52
O Garcia	27	1.25
B McKinlay	8	2.00
S Jokanovic	241	1.94
Q Flores	391	1.18
W Mazzarri	320	1.08

tain, was particularly problematic and never recovered from the head coach's decision to drop him to the bench for last month's 4-0 defeat by Tottenham Hotspur at White Hart Lane.

Deeney was so unimpressed by some of Mazzarri's methods that he hired a personal trainer in an attempt to improve his fitness, while several other Watford players have privately complained about not being fit enough despite being subjected to long training sessions and being given few days off.

Mazzarri also failed to build alliances with other staff at the club or to engage with the fans due to a mixture of his limited English and a lack of interest. After a decent start to the season Watford have struggled recently, winning just five Premier League games since December 10, and have tailed off dramatically since reaching 40 points last month, losing five successive matches since securing safety.

Mazzarri was summoned to a brief meeting with club executives after training yesterday at which he was told that he could leave after the City game.

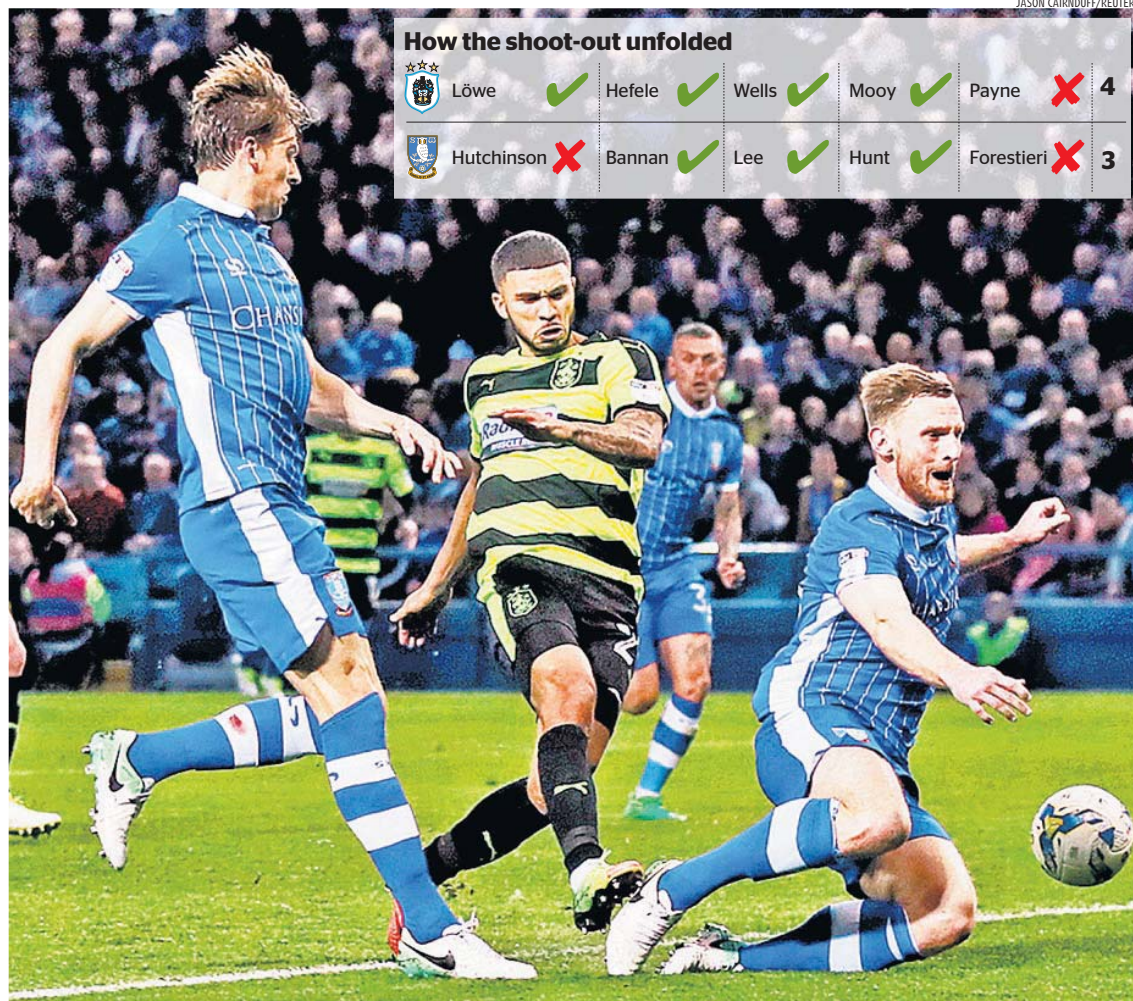
The club then released a brief statement from Scott Duxbury, the chairman. "After the board discussed with Walter Mazzarri the club's future goals and aspirations it was decided he will be stepping down from his position as the club's head coach after the final game of the 2016-17 season," it read. "We thank Walter and his staff for the contribution they have made to Watford Football Club over the past year."

Bilic set to stay after recording voiceover for kit launch

West Ham United have given a strong indication of their intention to retain Slaven Bilic as manager next season by giving him a prominent role in promoting their new kit for the next campaign (Matt Hughes writes). Bilic has recorded the main voiceover for a promotional video to be shown at the launch of the club's new home and away shirts, which is scheduled to take place next month.

Bilic has been under pressure throughout much of a disappointing

season, but the club have no plans to sack him despite repeated public demands for improved performances and results from the owners, David Sullivan and David Gold. Bilic is due to meet Sullivan for an end-of-season review next week, but the focus of that meeting is expected to be recruitment and personnel issues for next season rather than a discussion of his future. Bilic has one year left on his contract but will be given the opportunity to earn a new one.



Wells's shot is deflected off Lees, right, to give Huddersfield the equaliser that sent the game into extra time at Hillsborough

Ward the hero as Huddersfield reach final

Sheffield Wed <i>Fletcher 51</i>	1
Huddersfield <i>Lees 73 (og)</i>	1

(1-1 on agg, Huddersfield win 4-3 on pens)
Sky Bet Championship play-offs
Ian Whittell

Danny Ward made two decisive penalty saves in a dramatic shoot-out in which Huddersfield Town, absent from the top division for 45 years, edged to within 90 minutes of a prize estimated to be worth a minimum of £170 million.

That figure, based on next season's basic Premier League appearance money and subsequent guaranteed parachute payments, will be decided at Wembley between Reading and David Wagner's side thanks to Ward's heroics.

Suspended from Sunday's goalless first leg, the 23-year-old — on loan from Wagner's friend Jürgen Klopp at Liverpool, whom he had worked with at Borussia Dortmund — made stops from Sam Hutchinson and Fernando Forestieri as Huddersfield advanced.

"Danny said to me at the final whistle, 'Boss, don't worry about it, I'll do it,'" Wagner said. "And I trust my players. I joked in the pre-match press conference that Germans have been able to win penalty shoot-outs for 50 or 60 years but, to be fair, a Welsh

How the shoot-out unfolded

★ Löwe	✓	Hefele	✓	Wells	✓	Mooy	✓	Payne	✗	4
★ Hutchinson	✗	Bannan	✓	Lee	✓	Hunt	✓	Forestieri	✗	3

goalkeeper was very important. It was a British and German mix — maybe this was a first step for the British.

"Before the season, everybody said we would be relegated, not one step from the Premier League. The fairytale goes on, now we would like to write the last chapter, the successful chapter, on the 29th."

Championship play-off final

Huddersfield v Reading
Monday May 29, Wembley Television 3pm, Sky Sports

Wednesday finally broke the deadlock after 51 minutes through Steven Fletcher. The former Sunderland striker started a move which ended with Barry Bannan crossing from the left and the Scotsman heading in impressively from six yards.

Wagner will have felt aggrieved by the fact that Nahki Wells had been denied a strong penalty claim late in the first half, after a collision with the goalkeeper Keiren Westwood, but must have been delighted by his team's response.

After a number of enterprising attacks, Rajiv van La Parra's pass caught

Wednesday out of position, substitute Collin Quaner crossed for Wells, with the telling touch coming from the home defender Tom Lees.

Westwood saved well from Wells twice inside the final five minutes to force extra time, in which substitute Jordan Rhodes twice threatened, but Wells missed arguably the best chance when he shot into the side-netting from a promising situation.

"When you fight in a competition like the Championship, with so many games, and you go out in the semi-finals on penalties, it is frustrating," said the Wednesday head coach, Carlos Carvalhal, whose future is unclear.

"We didn't achieve what we wanted but we will be back. For me, it is not the time to talk about my future. There are too many rumours around, things that don't make any sense.

"Now we are finished, I will sit down with the chairman and talk. We have a very good relationship."

Sheffield Wednesday (4-4-2): K Westwood — J Hunt, T Lees, G Loovens, D Pudil (sub: A Nuhui 108min) — R Wallace (sub: A Reach 5), K Lee, S Hutchinson, B Bannan — S Fletcher (sub: J Rhodes 61), F Forestieri. **Substitutes not used:** J Wildsmith, D Jones, S Winnall, V Sasso. **Booked:** Hutchinson, Bannan. **Huddersfield Town** (4-2-3-1): D Ward — T Smith, M Hefele, C Schindler, C Löwe — J Hogg, A Mooy — E Kachunga (sub: C Quaner 72), I Brown (sub: J Payne 97), R van La Parra (sub: T Holmes-Dennis 105) — N Wells. **Substitutes not used:** J Coleman, M Cranie, D Whitehead, M Hudson. **Booked:** Hefele, Hogg. **Referee:** A Marriner.

Ronaldo passes Greaves

Cristiano Ronaldo eclipsed Jimmy Greaves as the leading scorer in Europe's top five leagues last night. The former Manchester United striker edged one ahead of Greaves when he put Real Madrid in front against Celta Vigo with his 367th La Liga goal, scoring again in a 4-1 win. Karim Benzema and Toni Kroos also found the net. Real need a point from their final game, against Malaga on Sunday, to clinch the title. Defeat could allow Barcelona to pip them.

Bradley Lowery too ill to attend Sunderland finale

Bradley Lowery, the terminally ill boy who has been taken to the hearts of English football fans, will not attend the end-of-season celebrations at Stamford Bridge this weekend because he is not well enough (Martyn Ziegler writes).

Bradley spent his sixth birthday yesterday in hospital, but received wishes from across the football world including his friend Jermain Defoe, the Sunderland and England striker, who will attend his birthday party

tomorrow at Bradley's home in Co Durham.

Chelsea invited Bradley, who has the rare cancer neuroblastoma, to attend their final match against his team, Sunderland, and there had been a social media campaign for him to hand over the Premier League trophy to the champions. However, a message on his Twitter account said: "We really appreciate everyone suggesting this. Chelsea did invite Brad down but he is not well enough."



Lord's
34 Tests since
2000



Alastair Cook
marks 10,000 Test
runs at Chester-le-
Street last year.
Lord's, top, hosts
an Ashes match

Lord's has staged twice as many Tests as other venues across England and Wales since the turn of the century

shared out

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total per ground since 2000
Lord's	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	34
Edgbaston	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	17
Old Trafford	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	15
Headingley	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	14
County Ground	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	14
St. Mary's	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12
Worcestershire	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	6
Leeds	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	3
Nottingham	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	2

Australia will lose out to player power in pay row



Mike Atherton

Chief Cricket Correspondent

Put James Sutherland, the tall, angular chief executive of Cricket Australia, and David Warner, the short, squat, bruiser of an opening batsman, together in a room. How should we describe them? Employer and employee? Administrator and player? Suit and star? Or partners in the fortunes, for good and bad, of Australian cricket?

There is no question that Cricket Australia (CA) evaluates the relationship as an old-fashioned hierarchical one, with orders being passed down. The players, through the Australian Cricketers' Association, view things rather differently: not surprisingly, they see themselves not as subservient but as central to the growth of the game. They don't much like being talked down to as a result.

So while, on the face of it, the stand-off between Australia's cricketers and the board is about the oldest issue of all — money — the real dispute is one of power and control and status. The bad news for the suits is that, since the advent of the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2008, the fundamentals have changed: the stars have never been more powerful, nor have they had more options than they have now.

Money has brought the issue to a head. CA wants to end a revenue share that has been at the heart of the relationship with the players for two decades. It complains that the players enjoy much of the upside of greater commercialisation without the burden of the extra costs associated with it and that the wages of domestic players have outstripped what is reasonable. A changed landscape, it says, demands a new memorandum of understanding.

The players would like to retain the revenue share, arguing that the model has worked harmoniously during a golden period for Australian cricket. If it ain't broke, and all that. They are asking for a simple split: a little over a fifth of the game's revenues should go to the players, the same to the grass roots, leaving about 55 per cent to the board to administer and grow the game.

It would be wrong to say that negotiations have stalled, since they have never really begun. Since December, when emails were leaked showing just how far apart the two sides were, there has been little movement. The language has recently turned nastier, though, with Sutherland threatening that the players will not be paid beyond the end of June, when the present deal runs out. In response, he has been reminded bluntly that without the players there can be no Ashes series.

From an English perspective, with the Ashes six months away, the whys and wherefores of the revenue share are less interesting, perhaps, than the question of how this issue will pan out. To this observer it seems an obvious outcome: if the players remain united, then there really is nowhere for CA to go. CA will have to back down and agree to either the revenue share continuing, or, more



Warner has acted as a mouthpiece for the players in their stand-off with CA

likely, to independent arbitration. Either way, Sutherland and colleagues are on a sticky wicket.

The board has tried classic divide-and-rule tactics. It has attempted to drive a wedge between the international players and domestic, by offering continued stellar rewards to the top players, while wanting a cap on those further down the ladder. It has offered long-term, attractive contracts to a select number of top players, in return for forgoing the lucrative IPL, and they have offered the women players vastly improved deals.

So far to no avail. Last week, there was a flurry of tweets from the top players with the hashtag "#fairshare", along with a blunt verbal message from Warner. As Joe Root and opening bowlers around the world can attest, Warner is not the shy and retiring type. So while his comrades were tweeting, Warner took out his favourite Kaboom bat and aimed a metaphorical swipe at the administrators. "The Ashes," he said (more or less), "don't bet on it."

Sutherland is right that the landscape has changed, but it has changed fundamentally in favour of the players, which makes CA's stance risky and odd. Twenty years ago, when the first memorandum was signed, there was only one game in town. If you wanted to earn a decent wage from the game, you had to play international cricket. Domestic cricket provided a pathway to those riches and rewards but, of itself, it was not lucrative for the players, nor viable without monies derived from the international game.

The IPL, and the rise of Twenty20, has changed all that. International cricket still offers the most lucrative path, and by far the most job satisfaction, but it is no longer the only way of earning a living from the game. Tymal Mills, recently paid more than £1 million for a gig in the IPL, when he is essentially outside of the international and domestic structure in England for much of the time because of his physical limitations, is vivid proof of that.

So, say Warner and his colleagues, if we become free agents after June then there are plenty of alternatives to earn a crust. Such has been the rise of domestic franchised competitions in the past ten years that a player could, if he so wished, play all year round, outside of the established international norms and controls.

CA (and every other governing body) has become increasingly nervous in a landscape that offers players more choice and the desire to control has become more urgent. CA's expansion to assume control of marketing rights to the game and the women's game, as well as an inflated media arm, to distribute the message, is mirrored over here with an expansion of the ECB's administrative ambitions.

Ultimately, that is one of the rationales behind the new English T20 competition in 2020. At the moment, the ECB owns very little. Counties sell tickets, and hoard consumer data for international and domestic matches at home; the ICC distributes commercial revenues for the global events, such as the forthcoming Champions Trophy. The new T20 competition will be wholly owned by the ECB: commercial revenues, television rights, branding, sponsorship, ticket sales and data. Ownership and control.

As these governing bodies are changing from what were once old-fashioned, almost amateurish enterprises into hard-nosed commercial entities, so those sitting on these boards have changed. CA's chairman, David Peever, is a former managing director of Rio Tinto, the mining giant, who, in his past life, expressed a desire to deal with employees directly, without the meddling of third parties, such as unions. Sport is business, pure and simple.

So the warning shots have been fired; the clock is ticking down. An industrial dispute, conducted as old worlds and new collide, threatens to engulf Australian cricket, with the Ashes being used as leverage by players who are emboldened in a landscape littered with choice. Australian administrators lost a famous battle 40 years ago when Kerry Packer shook them out of their complacency. It is hard to see how they can win this one either.

MCC ready to fight for two Lord's Tests

Elizabeth Ammon

MCC is to seek reassurances that Lord's will continue to stage two Test matches each summer after *The Times* revealed yesterday that the number of home England Tests is to be cut from 2020. As part of an overhaul of English cricket, which will include a return to free-to-air television for the first time in 15 years, home Tests will be reduced to six per summer and five during Ashes summers. A number of counties have expressed surprise at the revelations, which came from a tender document that was sent out to leading broadcasters by the ECB as part of the bidding process for international and domestic cricket rights between 2020 and 2024. The ECB had refused county executives permission to view the confidential document. Revenue from international matches is a significant source of income for the Test match grounds and counties are nervous that a reduction in the number of matches will mean a substantial loss in their income. The Kia Oval, the home of Surrey, has a staging agreement in place until 2022 that guarantees at least one Test and one one-day international each summer. If Lord's is granted two Tests per summer and the Oval continues with its agreed one, that will leave the other seven Test venues with only three matches between them. The majority of counties outside London who host international fixtures have taken out substantial loans to develop the venues. The repayment of these loans is based on

a projected amount of income from leading matches. One county executive told *The Times* that there is concern within the banking sector about the potential viability of these or future loans based on the situation at Durham and the reduction in income from fewer international matches. The northeast county were stripped of their Test-match status after a £3.8million bailout by the ECB having spent money on improving their ground to international standard. From 2020 some of the potential losses from the reduction in those games will be off-set by the extra £1.3million each county have been guaranteed from the new eight-team T20 competition. Richard Gould, Surrey's chief executive, told *The Times*, "We have a proven track record of high attendances and excellent facilities and we are confident that we are in a strong position to continue to host at least one Test a summer even in years where there are only five." An MCC spokesman told *The Times*: "We are comfortable with the case we have made to hold two Tests per year at Lord's. We have always had strong ticket sales. Lord's is a place where people want to watch cricket and where cricketers want to play." Test matches and other leading fixtures scheduled between 2020 and 2024 are likely to be allocated in the autumn by the ECB's major match group. The venues of matches in the new T20 competition will be decided at the same time and will be taken in conjunction with whichever broadcaster is appointed. Mike Atherton, pages 70-71

Xabi Alonso exclusive
Midfielder reveals retirement plans to Matt Dickinson
Pages 66-67



ROBIN JONES/REX



Huddersfield head to Wembley

Penalty shoot-out victory earns place in Championship play-off final, page 69

Watford may move for Silva

Matt Hughes
Deputy Football Correspondent

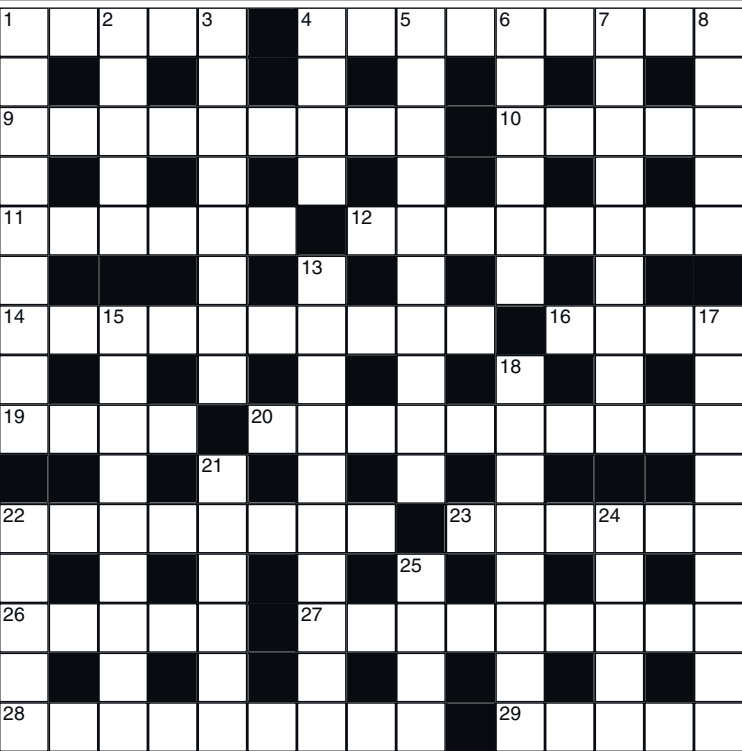
Watford are hoping to make a swift appointment to replace Walter Mazzarri as head coach having confirmed yesterday that the Italian will leave Vicarage Road after their final game of the season, against Manchester City, on Sunday. The club will seek to speak to Marco Silva, the Hull City manager, next week, but are also considering other options including Leonid Slutsky, the former Russia coach. Watford are anticipating competition from other Premier League clubs for Silva, who has impressed despite failing to save Hull from relegation in his four and a half months in charge. The club are aiming to act quickly as the Pozzo family contemplate their eighth managerial appointment in the Continued on page 69

Sponsor backs Sharapova snub

EXCLUSIVE
Stuart Fraser Tennis Writer, Rome

The decision by the French Open to refuse Maria Sharapova a wild card has surprisingly received the full support of the Russian's racket sponsor. Johan Eliasch, the chairman and chief executive of Head, believes that the French Tennis Federation (FFT) made the right call not to hand Sharapova a spot in the draw. However, Eliasch has laid the blame for one of his most prominent clients missing the second grand-slam event of the year at the door of the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada). Since Sharapova announced her failed doping test last year, Eliasch has repeatedly made the case that meldonium, the drug that Sharapova Continued on page 64

Times Crossword 26,728



ACROSS

- 1 Allowed to hike for relaxation (3-2)
- 4 Flat for, say, about quarter of rent (9)
- 9 Weaken workers in Arizona city (9)
- 10 Young fellow taking on computers and so on in some measure (5)
- 11 Valuable information about antique (6)
- 12 Brief period occupying steersman's place is an exciting event (8)
- 14 Tossing caber is to Angus primarily some spinning off the ground? (10)
- 16 Moves camera around to produce picture (4)
- 19 Not a lot put back in computer input? (4)
- 20 Nonsense in book with lines about dessert (10)
- 22 Disdain? Not for allure (8)
- 23 Early sign of life had affected religious figure (6)
- 26 Succeeded in leaving to survive (5)
- 27 Energy certainly has missile heading off in orbit (3,6)
- 28 Now penning Chapter One, and being prophetic? (9)
- 29 Very much taken aback, being brought in for each problem (5)

DOWN

- 1 Position over a drug bust involving fine cavalryman? (4,5)
- 2 Dog, Rex, engaged in what reveals his happiness (5)
- 3 One there by chance seeing S European cut wages (6-2)
- 4 Intend power to be supplied to computer network (4)
- 5 From where you could lose a button without thinking (3-3-4)
- 6 Native of Dundee, maybe, jumping up in alarm (6)
- 7 Gold surgical knife broken by doctor, one heading to hospital? (9)
- 8 Gain access to chips but not fish (5)
- 13 A sympathetic word about Poms suffering in climate (10)
- 15 Readily recalling about faltering? No thanks (9)
- 17 Government official in post blocking petition? Not right (9)
- 18 Medic encountering American oldest in reality TV programme (8)
- 21 Hot and cold running water included in quote picked up in a rush (6)
- 22 Vulgar ambassador interrupting international representative (5)
- 24 Knight blocking subscription for other noblemen (5)
- 25 Land around Northern cove (4)

The solution to Times Crossword Championship Qualifier No 2 (Times Crossword 26,727) will appear next Thursday

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THE  TIMES

STUDENT LAW

THURSDAY MAY 18 2017



**The Times Kingsley Napley 2017
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When the earth shakes, you need balance



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Paris



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Alternative facts: the modern battleground

EDWARD FENNELL

At the peak of last year's US presidential election a story circulated widely on social media that Donald Trump had called his own Republican voters "the dumbest group of voters in the country". The story was untrue, but not entirely implausible. In short, it was a classic example of "fake news".

With three weeks left until the general election there is still plenty of time for fake news to circulate across the UK. That is why the question "Do we need new laws to combat fake news?" is the topic for this year's *Times* Law Student Advocacy competition sponsored by Kingsley Napley, the City law firm. There are prizes worth £7,000, and the winner will be offered work experience with the firm.

The House of Commons culture, media and sport committee has already launched an inquiry into the fake news phenomenon.

Damian Collins, MP, chairman of the committee, said: "The growing phenomenon of fake news is a threat to democracy and undermines confidence in the media in general."

No recommendations have yet emerged but as Stephen Parkinson, head of criminal law at Kingsley Napley, observes: "If it can be demonstrated that fake news influences elections, then there is surely a strong case for some action to deal with the problem."

But what kind of action? Should it be through new legislation? By regulators? Or by self-regulation? Or maybe the marketplace could produce its own solution — Jimmy Wales, the founder of Wikipedia, is to launch a fact-checking service staffed by journalists, but driven by inquiries from the public.

Last week Facebook also announced moves to tackle the spread of fake news: its systems, it says, are getting better at identifying fake accounts by analysing patterns of activity, such as repeat postings of the same content. It has a tips page to help users to spot and report fake news stories. Facebook has joined forces with Google to launch a service called CrossCheck, which is led by First Draft News, a not-for-profit organisation, aimed at improving ethical sourcing and verification of stories online.

At present only the criminal and defamation laws are available to those who have been the victims of fake news. However, Parkinson says: "Our criminal and defamation laws are largely based around damage or harm caused to individuals, but often fake news is not concerned with individuals. The damage it can cause can be to society, or a section of society, as a whole."

So what kind of new legislation would fill that gap? And what might it address? A good starting point would be to define what we mean by fake news. "Information that is 'made up', and



In Nineteen Eighty-Four, George Orwell created the Ministry of Truth: could new laws require fiction to become fact?

therefore clearly or deliberately incorrect is unarguably fake news," says Sandra Paul, a partner with Kingsley Napley. "Information that is factually incorrect because the author has failed to adequately research the matter and verify facts is news, which we previously thought of as simply inaccurate, but is arguably also fake news. Information that is tinged with 'spin' or 'sexed up' to support the author's perspective has historically been accepted as 'advocacy' — but should that also be classified as fake news?"

The issue has become acute in the run-up to the general election.

The deliberate manufacturing of false reports for political purposes has a long history in this country, with

HOW TO ENTER

The competition is open to any student (aged over 16 years) registered at an educational institution in the UK. For full rules and details visit kingsleynapley.co.uk/advocacy. For inquiries please contact inquiries.competition@kingsleynapley.co.uk. Entries close on Thursday, July 27. Pupils or teachers who wish to be part of the audience for the final (which includes a programme of talks and exercises about advocacy and career in the law) should email rsvp.competition@kingsleynapley.co.uk

antisemitism and anti-papism frequently the motive. What makes fake news — or "alternative facts" — different from what has happened in the past?

Some would suggest that it is the internet that has made the qualitative difference. Fake reports can circulate like wildfire, disseminated with unprecedented speed, scale and reach.

It is also possible for the stories to be mocked up to appear to come from a reliable source, such as the BBC or CNN. Moreover, it is claimed, the audience will often be younger people whose opinions are unmediated by the traditional media (or is that a patronising assumption?).

None of this, however, demonstrates that new laws are necessarily the best solution. Indeed, there is a danger that the legislative "cure" could be worse than the disease in terms of the constraints on freedom of speech and the creation of an Orwellian Ministry of Truth to apply new laws.

Add in the difficulties that arise from a globalised internet, with the sources of fake news located far from our jurisdiction, and there is plenty to chew over.

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and views
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Train on the Continent — in London

Why Brexit does not lock you out of EU law



The diversity deficit Judiciary needs to move beyond "pale, stale and male"



What are your rights during an internship? The reality of working unpaid to get ahead

A portrait of Joan Loughrey, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark blue sweater over a white collared shirt. She is gesturing with her hands as if speaking.

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UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Why do you have to spend £19,000 to train to be a lawyer?

JONATHAN AMES

Prospective lawyers might one day be worried about life's two inevitabilities — death and taxes — but soon they will be fixated by an inexorable rise in vocational training costs.

Several weeks ago BPP University law school took the dubious honour of running the most expensive legal practice course (LPC) in England and Wales. BPP prices the course — which runs for an academic year and is mandatory for most students aiming to qualify as solicitors — at £15,740 in its London branches.

To be fair, BPP is only £70 more expensive than its arch-rival, the University of Law (ULaw), for an LPC. Rounding out the top five for the cost of an LPC are City University law school and Westminster University, both in London and priced at £14,500, and the University of Law's Guildford headquarters campus, in Surrey, which costs £12,550.

Aspiring barristers fare even worse. This time BPP is streets ahead of the competition, with the mandatory Bar professional training course (BPTC) costing £19,070 in London. City University's law school follows on £18,500, while the University of Law recently took the radical decision of slashing its Bar course fees for this September by 8 per cent to £17,500.

The remaining slots in the BPTC top five are also taken by BPP, with its Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester branches charging £15,680.

With students already weighed down with up to £27,000 of fee debt for their first degree, it is easy to see how the prospect of coughing up thousands more will deter all but the wealthiest or those lucky enough to be subsidised by large commercial firms.

Why are fees so high? Does it really cost vast sums to train lawyers when no hi-tech equipment is involved and all that is required are some lecturers and

books? The profession is starting to ask such questions, with senior lawyers worrying about diversity and accusations that fewer and fewer people are able to contemplate qualification.

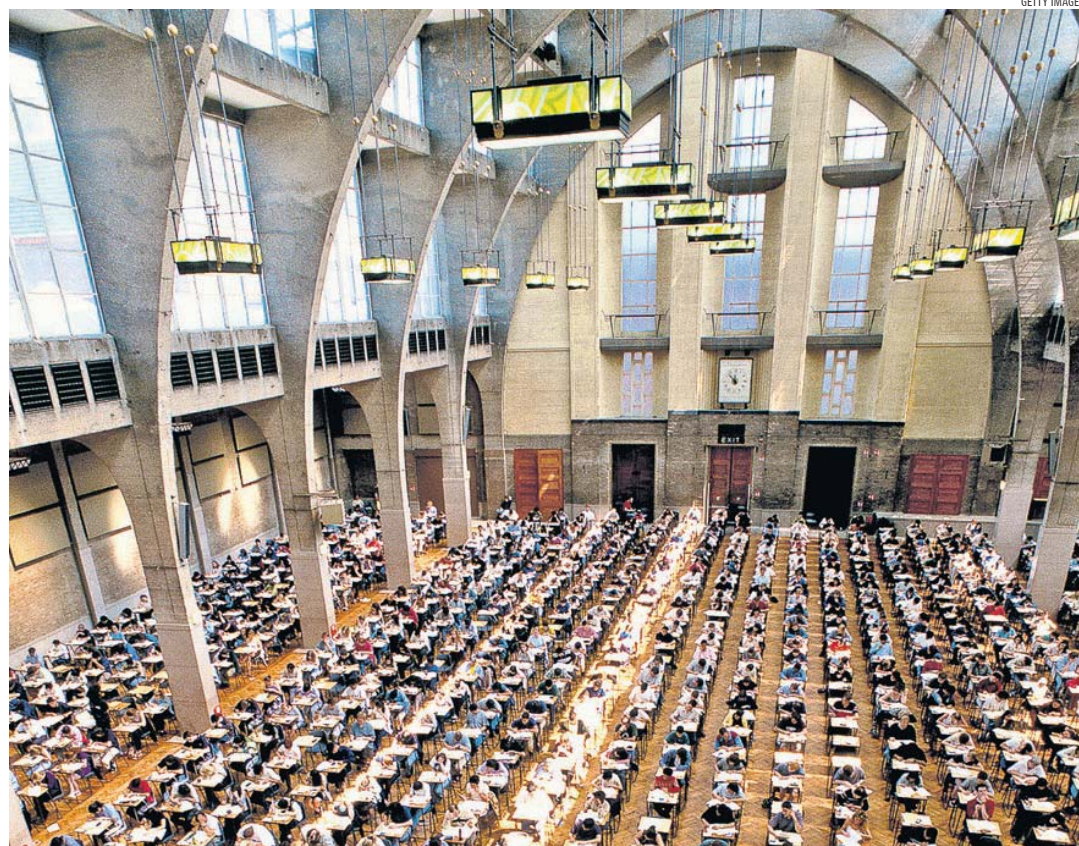
"We want the best people to be able to join the solicitor profession irrespective of their background or the pathways they have taken to qualification," says Robert Bourns, the president of the Law Society, which represents 130,000 solicitors in England and Wales.

Bourns points out that the training watchdog, the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA), has proposed a radical overhaul of education with the launch in several years of a unified "solicitors qualifying examination" (SQE). Its advent spells the end of the LPC and many hope it will create a cheaper route to qualification. However, he cautions that the SRA "admits that this would only be the case if legal education and training providers develop training courses that are cheaper and more flexible than the present qualifying law degree [LLB] and LPC".

He adds: "The SRA hasn't said how much the fees for the [final] exams will be. We are therefore asking for evidence from the SRA that their proposals would actually represent a lower cost to potential entrants."

Nigel Savage, a legal education consultant and the former chief executive of the University of Law, says there are considerable hopes for the new solicitor qualification regime. "The SQE could be a catalyst that forces law schools to do things differently and to look at their costs and the value they are providing to students," he says.

The Bar Council, which promotes barrister interests, is also actively promoting reform. Officials are lobbying for the creation of a two-tiered process that would weed out less suitable candidates earlier and, it argues, cut costs. Rumours also persist that the Bar Council is cooking up a scheme to revive the Inns of Courts School of Law, which would provide a



Costs of training 2017-18

Legal practice course
National average £11,045

Most expensive five

£15,740

BPP University law school (London)

£15,670

University of Law (London)

£14,500

City University law school (London)

£14,500 (incl LLM)

Westminster University (London)

£12,550

University of Law (Guildford)

Cheapest three

£7,700

Leeds Beckett University

£8,900

Birmingham City University

£9,200

Liverpool John Moores University

Source: university data, Lawyer 2B magazine and Chambers Student Guide

Bar professional training course
National average £15,570

Most expensive five

£19,070

BPP (London)

£18,500

City University

£17,500

University of Law (London)

£15,680

BPP Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds

£15,200

Cardiff University law school

Cheapest three

£13,250

Northumbria University (Newcastle)

£13,950

University of the West of England Bristol law school

£14,400 (incl LLM)

Nottingham Trent University

Students must complete a legal practice course or the Bar professional training course at their own expense if a firm is not sponsoring their fees

revised course more cheaply than the present commercial institutions.

One problem, say some experienced observers, is that the group of existing top-tier providers is so small. BPP and the University of Law have most of the market sewn up, with Nottingham University retaining a significantly smaller share. Another is that the University of Law is facing increased costs after its former private equity owners sold three pieces of prime property in London, Birmingham and York. The university has to lease back the buildings it owned in the capital and Birmingham, and rent space since it moved the York operation to Leeds.

Ultimately, the leading providers maintain that offering a high-quality course means incurring high overheads. Peter Crisp, the chief executive of the BPP law school, says that his institution's Bar course has no more than four students per class.

"We are very conscious of cost," he says, pointing out that BPP doles out £500,000 a year in scholarships and bursaries. "But you can't escape the fact that it is expensive to produce the best possible lawyers who have the best chance of having successful careers."

■ Will the new exam for training solicitors improve quality, value and diversity? Read more at thetimes.co.uk

Square Mile is learning that it can't all be about London

JONATHAN AMES

City firms have been discovering the joys of the provinces with the creation of regional hubs in cities such as Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow.

The idea is that shifting lower-grade work to regional hubs will be cheaper — not least because salaries are nowhere near as stratospheric as they are in the Square Mile. But the firms did not bank on this: many trainees and junior lawyers are less than enthusiastic about the prospect of taking a job in, say, Glasgow when they know that their counterparts in the City can earn up to three times more. They are also reluctant to be "ghettoised" in the

regions, rightly or wrongly fearing that once they accept a posting at a regional hub, they will be stigmatised, making it almost impossible to trade up to a Square Mile associate slot.

There are signs that these fears are creating recruitment difficulties. As one commenter wrote on Legal Cheek after the website published an opinion piece on the brewing recruitment crisis: "Starting salaries outside London are less than what you would get working in Tesco, no one wants that after studying for five years and getting yourself in over 50 grand of debt."

Another described regional salaries as "exploitative and outrageous", while another added: "Speak to any student and they'll tell you that they'd rather

“In the capital lawyers will without doubt get the best work, but they won't have lives

Mike Smith, of Michael Page Legal

take a prestigious non-law job than work in a legal call centre."

Recruiters agree that it is difficult to fight the attractions of the capital. "The lure of the salaries for newly qualified lawyers is amazing," says Mike Smith, an associate director at Michael Page Legal.

A combination of sterling's tumbling exchange rate against the dollar and sheer competition for talent means the US firms in the City are in another league. Akin Gump and Kirkland & Ellis lead the pack, offering up to £147,000 to lawyers on qualification. The best-paying home-grown firms — Clifford Chance and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer — are significantly behind, but with salaries of £85,000 on qualification they are still well ahead of packages outside London.

But there is still a trickle of young City lawyers keen to leave the capital behind. "About 25 per cent of our five-year PQE-plus [post-qualification experience] regional candidates are based in London," says Andrew Waters, the managing director at Chadwick Nott. They want "to move home or to secure a more relaxed work-life balance, which will often require a 30 per cent drop in salary".

Smith points out that the quality of work in the regions is improving. "In London lawyers will without doubt get the best work," says Smith, "but they won't have lives. While in the regions, they will have good work, reasonable salaries — and a life."

■ King & Wood Mallesons trainees find new firms. Read more at thetimes.co.uk

On the job: students fuel exp

GRANIA LANGDON-DOWN

Spiralling demand for free legal advice has prompted students around the country to become involved in a huge array of pro bono projects through their law school legal advice clinics.

According to the solicitors' pro bono group LawWorks, more than 2,600 student volunteers responded to more than 16,000 inquiries across the 80 law school advice centres that are members of its clinic network.

Their dedication was celebrated at the recent LawWorks and Attorney-General Student Pro Bono Awards at the House of Commons, in the presence of Jeremy Wright, QC. At the ceremony James Harper, the head of legal at LexisNexis UK & Ireland, warned them: "The light that burns within you will get threatened as you go through your career. But don't let that fire dim and never doubt the impact you can have."

BEST CONTRIBUTION BY A TEAM OF STUDENTS TEESIDE LAW CLINIC

Rachel Simmons and Kendal Iley, in their third year at Teesside University, were part of the team that helped 340 former employees of the closed SSI steelworks in Redcar win a total of more than £1.2 million at the employment tribunal.

"It was all hands on deck," says Simmons. "We worked 13-hour days alongside our studies and made 600 phone calls in one week, but seeing what it meant for our clients was worth it."

"It also had huge benefits for us in terms of communication skills, team work, writing and research."

Iley adds: "Some people do the legal practice course and then find law isn't what they want to do. But, having done a project like this, you know from the off that this is where your passion lies."

ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOUNDATION AWARD

NORTHUMBRIA LAW SCHOOL

Students work with the Student Law Office (SLO), which is run like a full legal service firm, as part of their academic and professional development. They are closely supervised by practising lawyers.

Rebecca Logue, who is in her final year of a four-year MLaw degree, says working on benefits



Employees at the SSI steelworks in Redcar, who won £1.2 million with the help of Teesside students. Left: Rachel Simmons and Kendal Iley, of Teesside Law Clinic. Above right: Karl Lynch, Paige Lewis and Rebecca Logue, of Northumbria Law School

cases has been transformative. "When you read the newspapers, there is a stigma attached to people on benefits," she says. "It was only when I started meeting clients that my perspective totally changed."

The SLO is split into different "firms", each with six students who work in pairs. She joined the welfare and benefits firm and worked on three cases involving issues around disability benefits and universal credit. "It involved lots of

research that you then present to the rest of the firm," Logue says. "It really opened my eyes to how the most deprived struggle to find help and how vital pro bono work is."

BEST CONTRIBUTION BY A LAW SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

The law school's pro bono group consists of more than 200 student volunteers working across 14 projects, including providing advice to the

'You need a thick skin to do something new. I hav

GRANIA LANGDON-DOWN

Fraser Matcham, a 19-year-old law student, faced a brutal Twitter storm after setting up a website where litigants in person (LiPs) can hire law students as McKenzie friends — someone to help them through civil or family court proceedings.

However, Matcham, who is in his second year at Westminster University, remains unfazed, maintaining that "there is no such thing as bad publicity" in generating new interest.

Instead, he says he has used any constructive criticisms to improve his

McKenzie Friends Marketplace (MFM). This includes adding a new clause prohibiting law students from giving legal advice to the code of conduct to protect both clients and students; clearer information for LiPs; and making the complaints procedure more prominent.

Matcham says he was inspired to set up the website after working as a volunteer with the Personal Support Unit, which offers LiPs free help with a range of services, including support at court, while clearly stating that its volunteers cannot offer legal advice.

His aim is to "rejuvenate" the more extensive role of McKenzie friends by bringing unreserved legal activities

online and helping LiPs who can't afford legal representation, but can pay a small amount to get emotional, practical and procedural support.

Even though law students are now barred from giving legal advice, Matcham says they can still take on a variety of tasks, such as form filling, supporting an LiP at court and taking notes.

This will give them "valuable" experience, he says, and the chance to earn some extra money because they can charge up to £25 an hour or £100 a day.

So far, the website has had more than 80 applications — 80 per cent from

“I doubt even the strongest undergraduate could offer enough to justify charging

Dr Leanne Smith, Cardiff University

students from 23 different universities. Matcham hopes that by July approval will have been given to 20 to 30 law students and consultants, who could be paralegals, new or retired lawyers or magistrates.

MFM has been set up as a limited company and a registered social enterprise. Matcham is managing director, while financial backing has been provided by the two finance directors. He is working with an insurer to be able to offer those approved for the site a branded professional indemnity package.

However, it is his ambitious plan for the marketplace to become a

losion in free advice



homeless, and alcohol and drug dependants. Its clinic has given free legal advice to more than 225 clients and has increased its capacity by 50 per cent by partnering with the family team at the local firm Shakespeare Martineau, which has helped to supervise more cases.

Final-year student Christopher Walker, the chair of the pro bono group, says: "We get 300 to 400 applications to work on the projects. It does involve substantial time out of your studies. But



it is a testament to the work you do that so many students want to do it."

BEST INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION ANNA MCCORMACK

A third-year student at the University of Leicester, Anna McCormack started as a researcher in the miscarriages of justice group before working her way up to chief officer of the pro bono group.

She has boosted student volunteer numbers from 80 to 300 and increased the number of projects to ten, including a crime club, which runs mock trials at primary schools, and a magazine.

"These projects are so important in helping build connections between the university and local communities," she says. "But the students also get so much out of it in terms of practical experience. We learn the theory, but you need to know how to apply it and how to communicate with different clients."

"Being involved has also helped in interviews for training contracts because I was able to use my experience with the pro bono group to explain how I have developed time management, team working, leadership and communication skills."

■ For a full list of winners and runners up, see lawworks.org.uk/about-us/news

A TASTE OF THE REAL WORLD

Nottingham Law School has launched its Business and Enterprise Law Service, which is aimed at helping micro-businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs (*writes Grania Langdon-Down*). It will charge for cases so that students gain an authentic experience of commercial practice.

The service is part of the law school's Legal Advice Centre, which was one of the first to obtain an alternative business structure licence in 2015.

"We are a charitable entity that is a wholly owned subsidiary of the university," explains Nick Jones, the centre's director. "We are able to charge because we are furthering our charitable objectives, which include developing the centre and enabling our students to learn."

The team piloted the service in January and have done 25 commercial law cases so far.

All clients will get some initial free advice and Jones says they will charge in a small number of cases, below market rates.

Billy Shaw, a third-year law student who was shortlisted for the LawWorks individual pro bono award, was involved in the first casework file.

"We helped a solicitor to draft new terms and conditions for her human resource service contracts with clients," he says. "She was based in Sheffield, so we discussed the issues over Skype."

"We weren't charging for work at that time. But, once the work was completed, she sent us cupcakes with our names on as a thank you."

However, he is looking forward to gaining experience of billing for work. "I want to go into commercial law and this will give me an invaluable insight into the real-life work of a solicitor."

Bank calls time on paying for juniors' work

JONATHAN AMES

Junior lawyers at City of London firms are used to drawing the short straw — long hours, arrogant and often bullying bosses, and they may as well be invisible as far as clients are concerned.

Now one of the Square Mile's biggest banks has added insult to injury by telling firms that trainee and freshly minted solicitors are not worth paying for.

Deutsche Bank triggered near panic in City lawyerdom a few weeks ago when it delivered a blunt message to the management committees of its panel law firms: save yourself the trouble of billing for hours worked by trainees and one-year qualified solicitors, because we ain't paying.

Deutsche will not comment publicly on the move, but it is understood that its harsh rationale is that City firms, not their clients, should bear the cost of training young lawyers.

Intentionally or unwittingly, Deutsche has exposed a long-running friction between big-billing City outfits and their equally profitable global clients.

In part, the problem is rooted in the UK's antiquated system of solicitor qualification, which clings to the two-year vocational training structure. They may be labelled trainee solicitors, but the roles still retain something of the Victorian articled clerk.

In the modern world, though, trainees have a lobbying group, and its leaders are less than impressed by the German-based bank.

Bryan Scant, the chairman of the junior lawyers division (JLD) of the Law Society, told *The Times*: "All firms are under a regulatory obligation to ensure that junior lawyers are adequately qualified and appropriately supervised in the work they undertake on behalf of a client; however, it is unfortunate if it is suggested that junior lawyers bring no value to the transaction. They do."

Scant, a three-year-qualified family law solicitor at Coffin Mew in Portsmouth, says his group "would be disappointed if any organisation stipulated that they would not pay for junior lawyers to undertake work on their behalf".

He adds: "Junior lawyers have gone through a vigorous and comprehensive period of education and training and are qualified solicitors; to suggest they are not qualified enough to undertake certain work is a disappointing approach that the JLD strongly disagrees with."

The argument against the Deutsche move is that although they may be young, trainee and junior lawyers still have technical knowledge, and, as Scant points out, "a different generational perspective".

Some sage voices in the City claim that Deutsche's attack on junior lawyers disguises a wider and longer-term game plan. According to one partner, who did not wish to be named, what the bank and other international corporations want from their very well-remunerated external legal advisers is more certainty about costs, and preferably fixed-fee deals.

"If nothing else," says the partner, "Deutsche Bank's in-house legal team probably reckons that its move over trainee and junior lawyers will make their next round of negotiations over fixed or capped fees much easier."

e that,' says McKenzie friends founder

"quasi-regulator" that provoked considerable flak, given that this is already a highly contentious area, with a judicial consultation proposing a ban on fee-charging McKenzie friends.

Matcham argues that, if charging is banned, the website's services will be offered free of charge.

"We are developing a range of new features that will increase connectivity between McKenzie and client at no cost, making it an excellent opportunity, regardless of fees, to gain experience."

While he has had help from academics and practitioners, no universities are endorsing the website. Among its critics is Dr Leanne Smith, a law professor at

Cardiff University, who has been leading a research project exploring the work of fee-charging McKenzie friends in private family cases.

She highlighted "some seeds of merit" in MFM, but pointed out that law students who worked with real clients in university law clinics did so under intensive supervision and often with direct assistance.

"I doubt even the strongest undergraduate could offer something sufficiently valuable to a litigant to justify charging for

Fraser Matcham



their support," she says. While Matcham had shown "initiative" in tackling such a contentious issue, Smith warned that he risked damaging his career chances and should drop this "hot potato".

But the entrepreneurial student tells *Student Law* that, while he "fully respects her considered criticisms", he is not giving up.

And, far from damaging his career prospects, he says he has been contacted by "magic circle" and other firms wanting to tap into his ideas. "You need a thick skin to do something new," he says. "Luckily I have that."

Seek counsel from a caring chatbot to guide you through tackling a crime

GRANIA LANGDON-DOWN

A team of Cambridge law students plan to launch revamped versions of their online chat programmes, LawBot and DivorceBot, this summer after the success of their award-winning prototypes.

The free tools were developed by Ludwig Bull, Rebecca Agliolo, Jozef Maruscak and Nadia Abdul, with research input from other law students. The aim is to promote access to justice by guiding members of the public through a series of structured questions to help them to understand how the law may apply to them.

Using Artificial Intelligence Markup Language (AIML), LawBot, which covers 26 serious criminal offences, including theft, violent and sexual assault, was used by 2,500 people and involved 20,000 interactions with the “bot” in the four months that it was live.

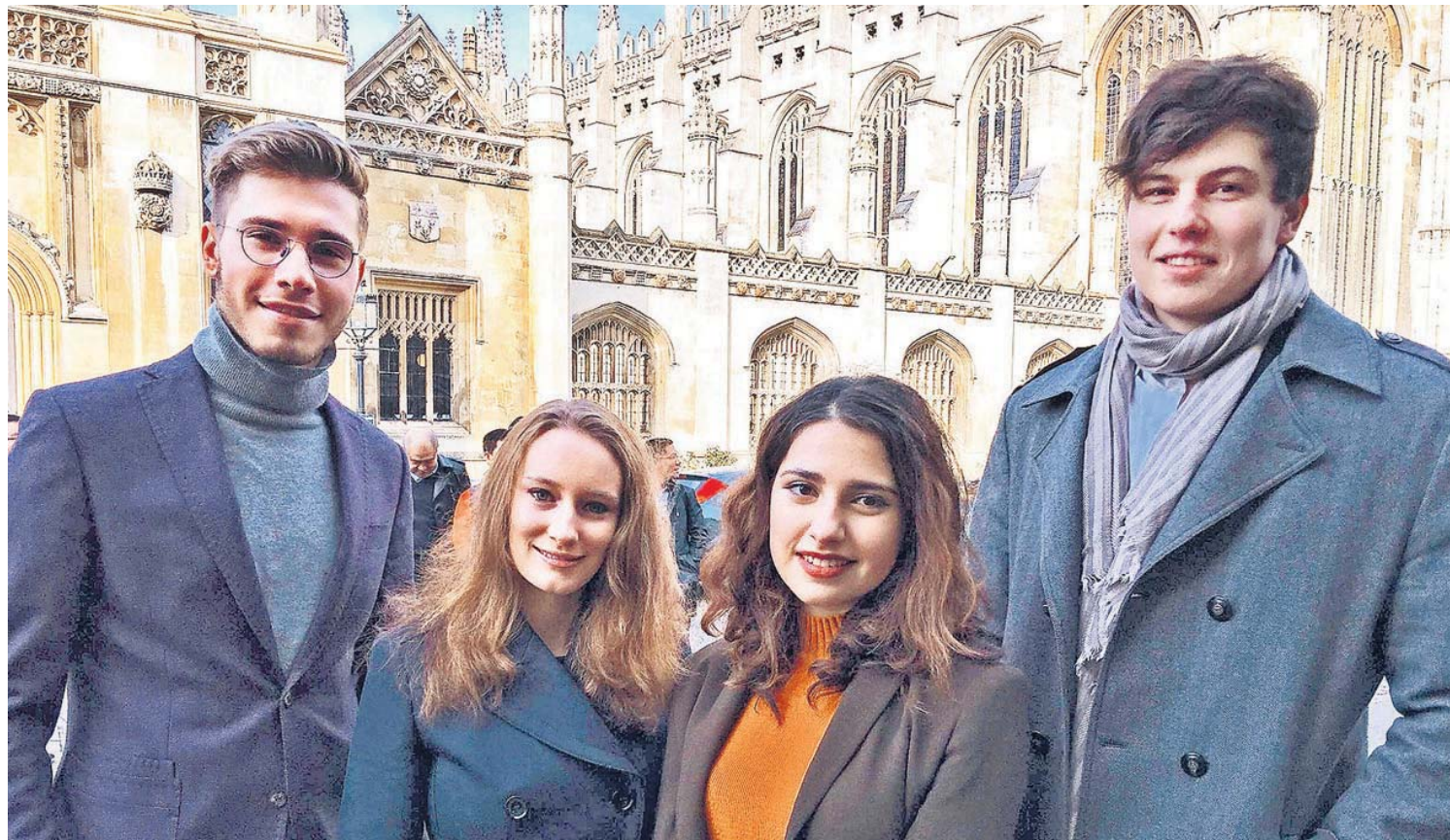
DivorceBot takes the user through a series of questions, such as, “do you find your spouse intolerable to live with?” and, “has your spouse committed adultery?” It was live for only a short time, but gained sufficient resonance, says Bull, to show that it was worth building both chatbots in greater depth.

Such was the success of the LawBot team that they were shortlisted for the recent LawWorks and Attorney-General Student Pro Bono Awards (see page 6). Agliolo, who is in her third year and is the commercial director, forged links with other pro bono groups, including the advocacy organisations for victims of domestic and sexual violence Stay Brave UK and UK Says No More.

The law is complex, she says, and people may be nervous about going to the police if they are unsure if they have a valid case.

“What LawBot can do is provide a confidential, secure and completely non-judgmental opinion on this matter,” she explains. “It can’t judge you, it simply provides access to legal knowledge.”

The project is run as a private limited company with a number of shareholders. Bull, who is in his second year, is the director. A software developer, he initiated the project in September after looking at the impact of AI on legal skills for a Cambridge think tank. “The driving force for the project is utility — to solve



From left: the Cambridge students Ludwig Bull, Rebecca Agliolo, Nadia Abdul and Jozef Maruscak created LawBot, which covers 26 offences, and DivorceBot

obvious problems in an efficient and elegant way,” Bull says. “There is a large difference between a static website with information stacked together and a chatbot that takes into account what you are telling it so it can tailor the information it gives you.”

He acknowledges that rape and sexual assault are sensitive areas, but insists that the advice from LawBot isn’t intended to be decisive — “it’s about letting the user make an informed choice”.

The initial version of the bot came in for significant criticism, but Bull says it was built quickly to test whether the idea had traction. Once that was verified, they took down the prototypes to build versions with improved legal content and psychological input.

He adds: “Technologically

speaking, the more intuitive and human-sounding you want the interface to feel, the more difficult it is. Even Apple’s Siri is in no way convincingly human.”

They are trying to tailor emotional responses at specific points of the questions. If someone has been slapped and the answer to the question, “do you think the other person did this intentionally?” is “yes”, the bot will respond: “I am really sorry to hear that.” It will then follow with the next question.

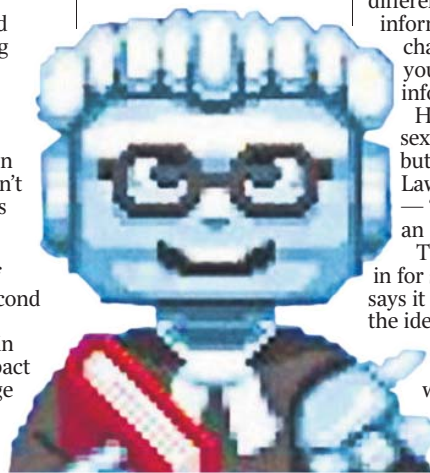
Privacy is key. “We have made it impossible for us to access details of any interactions and the bot never asks for contact details,” Bull says. “You can get a summary to give to the police via email, but you can also get it via a uniquely generated webpage.”

The project is funded from the students’ own funds and grants from

Cambridge institutions. They have enough to keep it going and scale up; and are determined that the service should be free. Their commitment takes time from their studies but it is a choice they are happy with; “we can manage both,” Bull says. “Cambridge is an intense environment, but it is also flexible and supportive and, if you prioritise your time well, you are encouraged to do things like this.”

In a separate venture, Bull has created a AI case law search engine DenninX, named after the celebrated judge Lord Denning. Still in its testing phase, it hosts about 2,000 “case snapshots” and aims to add 20,000 cases over the summer.

As for the future, Bull says: “England has an incredible legal system, but it is behind in terms of technology and I would like to contribute to securing this country’s great legal tradition.”



If you want a job in law, you’ve got to learn to code

CATHERINE BAKSIS

“To code or not to code”, as Hamlet may have pondered, had he been a 21st-century law graduate rather than a medieval prince having an existential crisis.

Anxious to increase their employability in an ever more tech-reliant world, students are keen to keep ahead of the game, and firms are equally eager to equip them to meet the demands of modern lawyering. Whether this includes coding skills is moot.

Coding is using a language, or code, to write programs that tell computers what to do. In legal work that might involve creating a system to read and analyse volumes of information or generate legal documents.

Paul Lewis, a partner at the international firm Linklaters, is a keen proponent of coding for lawyers. The company ran a successful pilot coding scheme for some of its staff, which it is looking to build on.

Lawyers, he says, have been described as a “lost tribe of computer programmers” because the mental processes are similar. Programming, he explains, uses “conditional logic statements” — if X then Y, and legal drafting requires the same logic.

Not only is it a good mental exercise, he says, lawyers must understand the technologies used in artificial intelligence, blockchain and smart contracts. Joshua Browder, the creator of the DoNotPay robot lawyer, is adamant that all law students should learn to code, so the systems created best

perform the tasks they are required for, and to ensure that lawyers remain integral to the process.

However, Dr Catrina Denvir, the director of Ulster University’s Centre for Legal Innovation, argues: “Lawyers do not need to know how to code any more than aspiring doctors need to know how to build lasers or fabricate surgical instruments.” They need only be conversant with technology, not developers of it.

Simon Hart, a partner and head of graduate recruitment at the London firm RPC, reckons that while raw computer programming skills are unnecessary, the ability to “manipulate and obtain optimum results” from programs is “very much a need”. A lawyer, he says, must be “first and foremost, a good legal and commercial



technician”, but there is increasingly scope for those with an aptitude for accessible coding to use those skills in day-to-day legal practice.

Hart predicts that there will be roles in most large firms for qualified, practising lawyers who sit at the interface between the lawyers and the IT systems in a fee-earning capacity.

Chrissie Lightfoot, a legal futurist and the co-founder of LISA, the “world’s first impartial robot lawyer”, warns students seeking to “future-proof” their employability that those coding skills may be obsolete in the next five years. “We all need to constantly learn new skills to keep up with, or ahead of, the evolution of machine learning and the challenge it brings,” she says.

Firms open the door to fintech — and let new faces lead the way

LINDA TSANG

Fintech is the latest growth industry. According to the financial website Investopedia, “fintech” includes any technological innovation in the financial sector — from financial literacy and education, to retail banking, investment and crypto-currencies such as bitcoin.

Even lawyers are getting in on the act. A trainee and a student have kick-started initiatives in two City firms: at Linklaters, lawyers are now offered training in coding; and at Simmons & Simmons, a joint student support programme on financial technology and regulatory technology has been set up with the Centre for Commercial Law Studies at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL).

Charlotte Baker, a trainee solicitor, started at Linklaters in March 2016. As part of her legal practice course she undertook an additional case study project that won when it was judged by an internal panel at the firm. At the resultant innovation group lunch, she suggested that lawyers be taught to code.

She says: “The idea was influenced by my classics degree and also by one of my professors from Cambridge, Simon Goldhill, who is a strong advocate of ‘interdisciplinarity’ — essentially the idea that there is power and value to be created through close interaction between different disciplines.



“My coding experience amounted to playing around with Linux shell scripts when I was younger, and given the rising importance of coders’ work in our industry, it seemed like a good idea to enable our lawyers to be able to have a closer dialogue with coders and what they do, through trying out coding themselves at a basic level.”

Baker has completed seats in the corporate and investment management practices and now sits in financial regulation. It took nine to ten months from that lunch for the first training session to take place.

Paul Lewis, a partner and member of the firm’s innovation group, says: “The coding training so far has comprised an initial one-day course given by an external provider — 50 people attended the course, including trainees, associates, and managing associates — the lawyers come from a range of practices, not just those with a heavy fintech focus.”

The course began by teaching the participants to code to display message boxes and other piecemeal tasks. By the afternoon they worked up to building their own calculators. Attendees could ask questions such as what are the practicalities of coding in teams; or what makes one coder better than another.

Lewis says: “Based on the success of the pilot run, we are looking at how we build this out on an ongoing basis and allow the participants to delve deeper into particular languages, such as Python.”

It’s not just a trainee who can influence innovation in the office. It was a visit to an office — Simmons &



A bitcoin-mining machine, an example of fintech. Left: The chancellor, Philip Hammond, at a fintech conference

Simmons, when it launched its £100,000 fintech fund a year ago — that gave Jin Enyi, an LLM student at QMUL, the idea for the student support programme between the university’s Centre for Commercial Law Studies and the firm.

With a QMUL professor, George Walker, he approached Angus McLean, a partner and the head of the firm’s fintech practice.

“We first discussed the mechanics of the proposed programme in early January 2017 and our first event took place on March 6,” says McLean.

“Eleven lawyers were involved and a number of senior associates. Students can pick the brains of our lawyers on

“The legal implications of these advances have not yet come under dedicated scrutiny

topics such as financial services regulation, blockchain and smart contracts. In return we benefit from the research findings, which may provide useful insights in a number of areas.”

The next event is due on June 29 at Simmons’s offices. Enyi says: “In general, fintech is expected to result in substantial disruption to many areas of traditional banking and financial services, and legacy products and practices.”

The law and legal implications of such developments have not yet come under dedicated scrutiny, Enyi says. That leaves “many difficult and complex issues to be resolved”.

Hello, smart cities: the old days are gone for good

ALEX WADE

The “smart city” is no longer just a buzzword, but today’s reality. Amsterdam, Barcelona and Madrid are pioneering smart cities; closer to home, Manchester and Milton Keynes are committed to the adoption of technology to manage their assets.

Welcome to the internet of things (IoT), big data, AI, urban informatics — and welcome too if you want to go into the legal profession, to the need to be a tech whizz as much as a king of case law.

Simon Hobday, a partner with Osborne Clarke — a firm with a dedicated smart-city practice since 2014 — puts it simply: “The old days have gone for ever. Technological changes aren’t slowing down; they’re getting faster. It has always been the case that a good lawyer needs to be commercial, but now anyone looking to build a legal career also needs to understand the technology underlying businesses.”

This means more than making a friend of your mobile phone, being adept

with social media and comfortable with track-changes — all prerequisites for today’s professionals.

Hobday says that knowing how coding works is the next step: “You can give much better quality, informed advice to a start-up IoT platform if you understand how coding works. There’s a ton of free information out there that you can easily access to get started.

“But you’ll get most from talking to people. Be inquisitive: if you show an interest and an ambition to find answers, technical experts will be happy to engage with you.”

Gregor Pryor, the co-chair of Reed Smith’s entertainment and media industry group, agrees. “Take advertising: it’s being transformed through new opportunities for brands to build deeper relationships with customers, made possible by the proliferation of new technologies that collect data.”

These changes can happen either through “traditional” digital services or devices, or through newer consumer offerings, such as IoT devices,



augmented and virtual-reality products and integrated social media.

That’s just the tip of the iceberg, he says. “A wide range of industries are being revolutionised by the combination of communications networks, data and intelligent platforms — farms are becoming robot and data businesses, energy is measured according to new pricing formulae and insurance will soon

A self-driving car takes to the streets

be sold by reference to increasingly attenuated market segments established by buyer profiling.”

All of this has a knock-on effect for today’s lawyers, who wish to stay ahead of the competition — which no longer only comes from other firms.

“Understanding present and future capabilities of technology is vital if your position in the market is not to be undermined by the machines themselves,” Pryor adds.

And where once a judge would be incensed if they heard the trill of a ringtone in court, a different view came recently from Mr Justice Holman. Earlier this year, the 69-year-old urged a lawyer, whose phone had sounded in the middle of proceedings, to answer it. “Don’t be embarrassed,” he said. “I never mind when mobiles go off... We live in the modern world, and we like to keep our mobiles on.”

That judicial generosity came in the midst of the Ministry of Justice’s £1 billion investment into cutting-edge video and computer technology.

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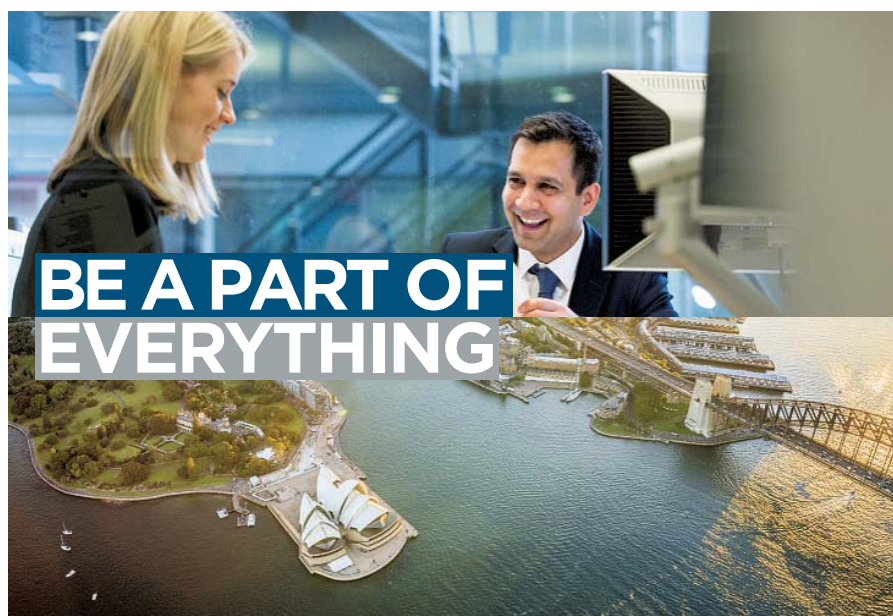
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employers in 2017, information on **internships and work placements**, plus tips, guidance and advice on successful graduate job hunting.

Copies of the new edition are available **free of charge** at university careers services (while stocks last), or can be purchased from the *Top 100* website, price **£19.99**.

www.Top100GraduateEmployers.com



Leila Taleb, also pictured below, beat her £12,500 BPTC fees target with an online appeal, below right

Relying on the kindness of online strangers

CATHERINE BAKSI

One of the biggest obstacles for students looking to become lawyers is the eye-watering cost of training. On top of university tuition fees, professional training courses can leave them up to £20,000 out of pocket.

Scholarships are available from a variety of sources, but huge competition has forced some to take a more creative approach to funding their studies, turning to online crowdfunding and asking complete strangers to help them to fulfil their dreams.

Leila Taleb successfully crowdfunded the £12,500 she needed to take up a place in September on the Bar professional training course (BPTC) at the University of Law in Leeds. She grew up in a working-class family in Bradford. Her father came to the UK from Algeria and her mother is white British. There were “culture clashes” at home.

She experienced domestic violence and, as a girl in a conservative household, her father sought to control her to such an extent that she left home during her A levels. Despite that, she studied law and German at Lancaster University and did an MA in applied human rights at the University of York.

ULaw’s BPTC in Leeds costs £14,500. Taleb received a £2,000 advocacy scholarship from the law school, but was

unsuccessful in her application for a further scholarship. Voluntary work limited her ability to earn money, and she did not qualify for a student loan because she had taken one to fund her MA.

Not willing to miss out on her place at Bar school, she set up an appeal on the website JustGiving. Several supporters pitched in £10, but after six days one anonymous benefactor stumped up the full amount.

Taleb had seen an unsuccessful student’s crowdfunding attempt, which garnered only £5. She learnt from that and realised she had to make her personality come across and make the campaign “about something bigger than just helping me”.

Taleb, who had featured in *Breaking out in Bradford*, a BBC Three documentary about social mobility, highlighted the need to break down entry barriers to the legal profession. She included a link from the

documentary on her page and wrote: “I’m not from a traditional law background, but it’s important that barristers come from all walks of society... We can only open the door of the legal profession if we push against it together.”

Rachael Owlin crowdfunded on the specialist education site HubHub to raise £10,000 to study an MSc in migration studies at Oxford University, after her Sussex University law degree. Crowdfunding,

she says, was an “absolute last resort — you have to exhaust all other options. It takes a lot of courage.”

Key to her successful £10,000 in ten days campaign, she says, was social media — using Facebook and Twitter to spread the word. She created the Twitter hashtag #OXFORDI0000 and trailed the campaign before it went live. “It was ambiguous and created a buzz,” she says.

Owlin made a one-minute video explaining what she was doing. “You have to keep it short and simple,” she advises others looking to do the same. She also offered rewards to her backers, including a public “thank you” on Twitter, an acknowledgment in her dissertation and an invitation to a formal college dinner.

Her advice is to “be honest and clear about what you are doing” and have at least one donation lined up to get the ball rolling. While it was time-consuming, Owlin’s efforts paid off. She raised £15,000, including £1,000.01 from an anonymous donor.

Students who have crowdfunded will demonstrate commercial awareness, communication and influencing skills to future employers, says John Watkins, the director of employability at the University of Law. But he warns they should not think it will guarantee a pupillage or training contract.

John Cooper, QC, the barrister and senior advocacy trainer for Middle Temple, notes that there is nothing new about strangers providing money for students, but says it highlights that the support that students had in the past from local authorities has gone.



Don't forget to review the journals when you pick your university course

BEN CARTWRIGHT

For those intending to study law at university, the choice of where to apply will not usually be determined by the type of student law publications on offer.

Yet there is an increasingly diverse range of law journals and magazines being produced at UK universities — and working on one of these can have a significant effect on your academic life. From a role as an editor of an academic law review, to an occasional writer for a current affairs-based magazine, there are many ways to get involved.

A review may conjure up the image of an annual academic journal, often with a focus on questions of jurisprudence and legal theory. Indeed, universities such as Exeter, Edinburgh and Glasgow publish journals of this type; they are written and edited by students for an academic-minded audience. Many articles will relate to the undergraduate’s or postgraduate’s course of study and so to their exams, helping them to improve their grasp of a subject.

The use of student law reviews as a “revision resource” has grown over recent years: the *Strathclyde Law Review* was established three years ago and has developed a strong local reputation. Similarly, Exeter started publishing its *Student Law Review* in 2015. It is no longer the case that a limited number of universities hold a monopoly over such publications.

Not all “student” law reviews are written by them; Bristol’s *Dicta* journal is written in the style of an academic review and is edited by students. What distinguishes *Dicta* is that the articles are written by legal professionals, including barristers and City solicitors. Other universities employ different methods to ensure a more “specialist” approach; Edinburgh University’s *SCRIPTed* is a law and technology journal, edited by postgraduates, with articles by academics.

Alternatively, universities such as University College London and York opt for a more mixed approach. They both publish three journals a year — *Silk v Brief* and *Ebor Lex* respectively — and combine elements of a magazine format, including images and bold colours. While the content of *Ebor Lex* is consistent with traditional academic journals, it is stylistically different. Likewise, *Silk v Brief*, to which I have contributed, prides itself on aesthetics, with exclusively drawn front covers and the publication of photography and artwork alongside articles.

Increasingly, it appears that law publications are opting for a thematic approach, discussing social and political issues in a legal context, particularly recent elections and the EU referendum, rather than focusing solely on legal theory. This makes it easier to attract a wider readership.

Careers information and guidance are increasingly incorporated within publications; the summer edition of *Ebor Lex* is usually focused on careers and employment, rather than academic pieces.

City firms sponsor law publications and consequently have an indirect, largely financial, influence on their direction. CMS Cameron McKenna, for example, sponsors the law review of Glasgow University Law Society and provides prizes for writing. The same is true for Macfarlanes, which sponsors an award for the best piece in each edition of UCL’s *Silk v Brief*.

The variety and content of publications can vary between universities, and even within universities such as Edinburgh, which publishes multiple journals.

Students applying to study law should therefore consider how they can get involved in these publications. There are, according to the *Complete University Guide*, 100 institutions that offer law as a subject.

Distinguishing between universities on the basis of their law publications and the opportunities to get involved can be a helpful way of choosing where to study.

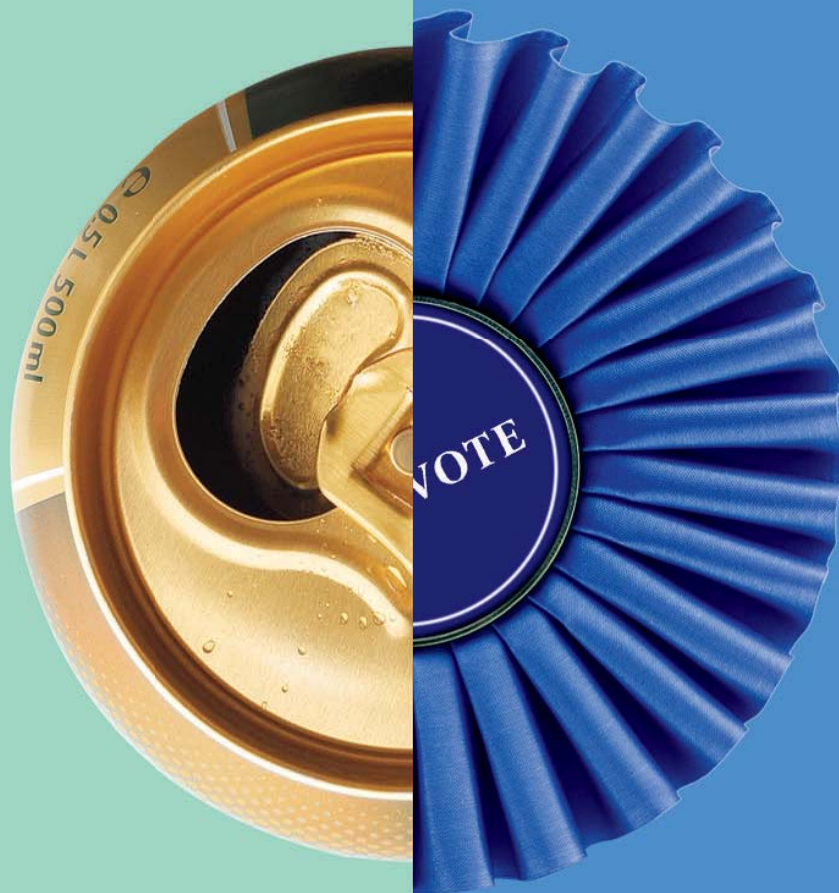
Ben Cartwright is studying Law with Hispanic Law at University College London



Dicta, of Bristol, and Silk v Brief, of University College London



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FLORENCE AND TUSCANY

TOUR



EIGHT DAYS
FROM
£849
PER PERSON

Day one - Arrival in Florence - Flight and transfer to your hotel.

Day two - Florence and the Uffizi Gallery - Guided walking tour of Florence taking in its finest sights, including the cathedral and Ponte Vecchio. We then have a reserved visit to the Uffizi art gallery.

Day three - Lucca and Pisa - Today we discover Lucca, birthplace of composer Puccini. We then visit nearby Pisa with its gravity-defying leaning tower.

Day four - Free day in Florence - Today you are free to explore this wonderful Renaissance city.

Day five - San Gimignano and Volterra - We explore stunningly beautiful Tuscany.

First we see the thirteen towers of San Gimignano, built by 13th century rival nobles. After absorbing the atmosphere of this unique rural village we move on to Volterra.

Day six - Siena - Guided tour of Siena - its incredible cathedral is just magnificent with its Michelangelo carvings and floor made from thousands of interlocking stones.

Day seven - Free day - A morning stroll? A coffee in the main square? Some holiday reading? The choice is yours.

Day eight - Return flight - Transfer and return flight.

Tuscany embodies much that Italy is famous for, possessing more historical monuments than any other country on earth. Its cities, Florence, Siena and Pisa, together with smaller towns and medieval villages like Lucca and San Gimignano, house some of the world's finest artistic treasures. Combine this with the haunting beauty of the local countryside, an enviable climate and one of the world's great cuisines, and you have all the ingredients for a superb holiday.

Departures up to October 2017



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Guided sightseeing tour of Florence city, the 'Pearl of the Renaissance'
- Reserved and timed visit to the Uffizi Gallery, one of the world's finest art collections - entrance included
- Guided tour of Siena, one of the finest medieval cities
- Visit to San Gimignano, one of Italy's most beautiful hill-top villages
- Visits to Lucca and Pisa, home of the Leaning Tower and its amazing cathedral
- Experience the hauntingly beautiful Tuscan countryside
- Stay in central Florence and enchanting Tuscany
- Services of our experienced tour manager
- Seven nights in three-star superior and four-star accommodation, with breakfast and four dinners
- Return travel from a selection of regional airports
- New: Sample exquisite wines at a typical cantina in Tuscany

LAKE MAGGIORE, ORTA AND THE MATTERHORN

TOUR



EIGHT DAYS
HALF-BOARD
FROM
£829
PER PERSON

Day one - Arrival in Stresa - Flight and transfer to your hotel.

Day two - Lake Maggiore and Borromean Islands - Visit the Borromean Islands, home to Isola Bella, a glorious 'belle époque' villa, and visit Isola dei Pescatori, whose cobbled streets and picturesque harbour reflect its fishing heritage.

Day three - Centovalli Railway - Our boat cruise visits Cannobio, before a drive to Locarno. This chic Alpine resort is staunchly Swiss, but its twisting lanes and alleys bear more resemblance to Tuscany than Zurich. Later we board the narrow gauge Centovalli train.

Day four - Lake Como - Explore another jewel - Lake Como - adored by Wordsworth and Shelley and inspiring

the works of Verdi and Rossini. You can also take a boat to beautiful Bellagio, with its idyllic location on a lake promontory.

Day five - Free day - A free day to explore as you wish.

Day six - Zermatt and the Matterhorn - Via the Simplon Pass we ascend into the truly spectacular Swiss Alps to Zermatt, nestling at the foot of the awesome Matterhorn.

Day seven - Lake Orta - Visit to Lake Orta - probably the prettiest of the Italian lakes, yet one of the least known. Another treat is a visit the 114-foot high statue of San Carlo Borromeo for more breath-taking views.

Day eight - Return flight - Transfer and return flight.

Stylish Lake Maggiore straddles both Italy and Switzerland and, justifiably, was a favourite of Hemingway, Chaplin and many others. We also visit the equally beautiful Lake Como, plus the romantic gem that is Lake Orta. You will experience possibly the world's finest alpine scenery, chic Locarno and dramatic Zermatt, nestling at the foot of the mighty Matterhorn.

Selected departures
up to October 2017



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Cruise to the enchanting Borromean Islands of Isola Pescatori and Isola Bella, with a guided tour of the latter's 17th-century baroque villa (entrance fees included)
- Full-day tour travelling through the Simplon Pass to Zermatt in the Swiss Alps seeing the Matterhorn, probably the world's most instantly recognisable peak
- Full-day tour to shimmering Lake Como, described by Wordsworth as 'a treasure the world keeps to itself'
- Full-day tour visiting Cannobio and Locarno with a journey on the famous Centovalli railway
- Visit one of Italy's most romantic lakes, charming Lake Orta, and the delightful 14th-century medieval village of Orta San Giulio
- Option to join a complimentary guided walk
- Your Riviera Travel tour manager will bring these sights to life
- Seven nights in a choice of conveniently located four-star accommodation including all local taxes, with breakfast and dinner
- Return travel from a selection of regional airports and transfers to and from your hotel included
- Price includes excursions worth £210

DUBROVNIK, THE DALMATIAN COAST AND MONTENEGRO

TOUR



EIGHT DAYS
HALF-BOARD
FROM
£859
PER PERSON

Day one - Arrival - Flight and transfer to your hotel.

Day two - Krka National Park - We begin in the stunning Krka Valley national park, where the River Krka forms a series of lakes.

Day three - Split and Trogir - Drive north along stunning coastline to Split, famous for the huge Roman palace of the Emperor Diocletian. We then visit the charming Dalmatian port of Trogir.

Day four - Mostar - Drive south to Mostar and its 16th-century mosques, Turkish houses and tiny workshops. There's also the iconic stone bridge that links the Old Town's two halves.

Day five - Dubrovnik - A walking tour of Dubrovnik seeing its impressive baroque

architecture, formidable ramparts and marble-paved main avenue, reflecting the midday sun, which gives credence to the city's sobriquet, 'Pearl of the Adriatic'.

Day six - Perast, Kotor and Montenegro - Beautiful, undiscovered Montenegro is one of Europe's newest countries. First stop is the picturesque small town of Perast which overlooks the island Church of Our Lady of The Rocks. Next is the medieval town of Kotor and its walled labyrinth of cobbled streets, Orthodox Cathedral and intimate squares.

Day seven - Free day, Dubrovnik - A free day to explore as you wish.

Day eight - Return - transfer and return flight.

Lord Byron christened Dubrovnik 'Pearl of the Adriatic'; the Dalmatian coastline is one of the most dramatic in Europe; and if you can imagine what the Mediterranean was like thirty years ago, Montenegro is probably it. This matchless blend of history, Mediterranean ambience, with truly stunning natural beauty, is again on the discerning traveller's map.

Departures up to October 2017



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Guided tour of Dubrovnik - 'Pearl of the Adriatic' - with its medieval and baroque centre almost untouched by the 21st century
- Visit to Krka National Park and its series of stunning waterfalls and lakes
- Visit to Mostar, with its iconic bridge, once Europe's border with the Ottoman Empire
- Tour of beautiful, unspoilt Montenegro with visits to UNESCO World Heritage sight towns Perast and Kotor
- Guided tour of Split including entrance to the Emperor Diocletian's monumental palace, one of the greatest of ancient Roman structures
- Visit to medieval Trogir, one of Dalmatia's most seductive old ports
- Tour the Dalmatian coastline, one of Europe's most dramatic, studded with Venetian influenced, perfectly preserved villages
- Your Riviera Travel tour manager will bring these sights to life
- Return travel from a selection of regional airports and transfers to and from your hotel included
- Seven nights' four-star hotel accommodation, including all local taxes, with breakfast and dinner

MADEIRA, THE PEARL OF THE ATLANTIC

TOUR



EIGHT DAYS
FROM
£799
PER PERSON

Day one - Arrival in Funchal - Flight and transfer to your hotel.

Day two - Funchal - Walking tour of the historic centre of Funchal, often called 'little Lisbon' and enjoy a tasting of Madeiran wine. Visit the astonishing Palheiro Gardens.

Day three - Curral das Freiras and Câmara de Lobos - Drive inland to the spectacular Curral das Freiras - also known as Valley of the Nuns. This afternoon head back south towards the coast to Câmara de Lobos.

Day four - Monte and Monte palace Tropical Gardens - Driving inland to the hilltop Monte, you'll enjoy spectacular views of Funchal, the southern coast and the tropical gardens.

Day five - Eastern Madeira - Scenic drive stopping at Ponta do Rosto, seeing

Porto da Cruz and arriving in Santana, famous for its distinctive houses with A-shaped thatched roofs and brightly painted doors and windows. We then head inland towards the mountainous interior to Ribeiro Frio, and emerge above the tree line at Pico do Arieiro.

Day six - Free day - A free day to explore as you wish.

Day seven - Western Madeira - Scenic drive stopping at Cabo Girão, Ribeira, seeing Ponta do Sol and then Madalena do Mar. Heading inland across the boggy Paúl da Serra plateau, we drive all the way to Porto Moniz. Returning via the northern coastal route, we will stop at the village of Seixal to see the famous Bridal Veil waterfall.

Day eight - Home - Transfer and return flight.

The 'Pearl of the Atlantic', Madeira is a subtropical gardener's paradise. Blessed with a mild climate all year round, this 'island of eternal spring' is a superb destination. Our tour begins in the sunny south at the picturesque capital, Funchal. We also discover many of the island's gems including beautiful gardens and the hidden Valley of the Nuns. Enjoy scenic drives along the coast to see how the landscapes differ and understand why Madeira was a favourite retreat for Churchill.

Departures up to October and November 2017 and February to November 2018



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Guided walking tour of the old town of picturesque Funchal
- Sample the delicious Madeiran wines
- Guided visit of the beautiful Palheiro Gardens
- Visit the mysterious Curral das Freiras or Valley of the Nuns
- Visit Câmara de Lobos, the inspiration for some of Sir Winston Churchill's paintings
- Guided visit of superb Monte Palace Tropical Gardens
- Discover the eastern coast, seeing Ponta do Rosto, the easternmost point; Santana; the UNESCO-listed Ribeiro Frio forest park; and Pico do Arieiro
- Explore the western area of the island, including Cabo Girão, Porto Moniz, and the Bridal Veil
- Your Riviera Travel tour manager will bring these sights to life
- Return flights
- Seven nights in four-star accommodation, with breakfast and dinner

BERLIN, DRESDEN, MEISSEN AND COLDITZ

TOUR



FIVE DAYS
FROM
£549
PER PERSON

Day one - Arrival in Berlin - Flight and transfer to your hotel.

Day two - Berlin - Guided tour revealing the city's incredible history and many iconic sights, including Checkpoint Charlie, The Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag, Unter den Linden Boulevard and the remains of the 'Wall'.

Day three - Colditz and Meissen - We drive through gentle rolling countryside into Saxony, crossing the mighty River Elbe, en route to Colditz, best known for its role as a Second World War Prisoner of War camp. Our tour and exhibition

offer fascinating insights into the lives of inmates and their escape attempts. Next visiting Meissen and its celebrated porcelain factory - where fine china has been made purely by hand since 1708.

Day four - Dresden - Our walking tour takes in the grandiose Frauenkirche, whose bell-shaped dome has dominated the skyline for centuries, the Zwinger Palace, which displays works by Rubens, Canaletto, Van Dyke, Rembrandt and others, and other landmarks.

Day five - Return - Transfer and return flight.

On this intriguingly varied tour, we visit two of Europe's great cultural centres: Berlin, once the East-West flashpoint, now reborn as a lively and dynamic city and Dresden, newly restored and possibly Germany's most beautiful city once again. Combine this with stunning Meissen porcelain and the infamous Colditz Castle and you have a varied and fascinating tour.

Selected departures up to October 2017



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Tour of Berlin, home to Norman Foster's Reichstag, 'Check Point Charlie', the DDR (former East Germany) Museum, and some of the world's finest archaeological and fine art museums
- Walking tour of Dresden, 'Florence of the Elbe', home to one of the world's greatest art collections, formerly capital of the Kings of Saxony
- Visit Meissen and take a guided tour of the world-famous porcelain studio
- Guided tour of Colditz Castle of Second World War prisoner of war fame (entrance fees included)
- Departures exclusively for solo travellers also available
- Escorted by an experienced tour manager
- Return flight from a selection of regional airports
- Four nights in conveniently located accommodation rated four-star superior, including all local taxes, with breakfast

PERSONALISE YOUR HOLIDAY:

Call us to pre-book your Trabant safari in Berlin. Priced from £90pp.

ROUEN, HONFLEUR AND THE HIGHLIGHTS OF NORMANDY

TOUR



FIVE DAYS
FROM
£469
PER PERSON

Day one - Arrival in Rouen - Travel by Eurostar and transfer to your hotel.

Day two - Walking tour of Rouen - Rouen is one of the most beautifully preserved medieval towns in Europe and this morning you will have a walking tour. You see all the major sights of this stunning city including where Joan of Arc was burnt at the stake and in the Cathedral, immortalised by Claude Monet, are the tombs of Richard the Lionheart and William the Conqueror's grandfather. During the afternoon you visit Fécamp, home of the liqueur Bénédictine, touring the Bénédictine Palace itself, full of superb centuries-old artefacts.

Day three - Bayeux - You visit Bayeux and its world-famous tapestry. The embroidery is extremely delicate and,

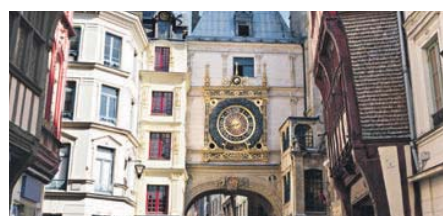
indeed, this is arguably the most perfect relic you have of the Middle Ages. You also visit nearby Gold Beach, made so famous on D-Day, then Arromanches with its excellent museum and remnants of the incredible Mulberry Harbour.

Day four - Honfleur - Today it's the picturesque port of Honfleur. Its delightful old harbour is surrounded by a perfect waterfront of tall, pastel-coloured 18th-century houses and fish restaurants. Artists capture the delightful views for eternity whilst the intricate maze of streets is lined by the traditional half-timbered buildings so typical of provincial France. There is also a museum dedicated to Eugène Boudin, the forerunner of Impressionist art.

Day five - Return Eurostar - Transfer and return journey.

For a short break with a difference, Normandy is hard to beat - it really is one of the truly unspoiled corners of Europe. Normandy is French countryside just as you'd imagine - lush and green, with tiny fields, half-timbered buildings and history so intertwined with our own. You will see echoes of Joan of Arc, the D-Day landings, Richard the Lionheart and of course the most famous of all, William the Conqueror of England.

Departures up to October 2017



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Visit to the historic Bayeux Tapestry
- Guided historic walk of Rouen, one of France's most perfectly preserved medieval cities
- Visit to Benedictine Palace, home of the famous liqueur
- Visit to the picturesque port of Honfleur
- Visit to Arromanches and one of the World War II D-Day beaches
- Four nights in four-star accommodation, with breakfast
- Services of an experienced tour manager
- Return rail connections available on selected dates from over fifty regional stations and return standard class reserved seat on Eurostar from London St Pancras International
- Departures available exclusively for solo travellers

CANADA'S ROCKY MOUNTAINEER TOUR



NINE DAYS
FROM
£2,559
PER PERSON
OR 16 DAYS*
FROM
£3,299
PER PERSON



Day one - Calgary - Flight and transfer to your hotel in Calgary.

Day two - Rockies - You start your spectacular journey from Calgary across the rolling prairies of Alberta and soon the slate-grey, snow-capped peaks of the Rockies come into view.

Day three - Rockies - This morning your breathtaking journey is along the Icefields Parkway, one of the most spectacular roads in the world. Your first stop is Lake Louise; completely encircled by high peaks, it is one of the most photographed views in the Rockies. You next visit Peyto Lake, one of the world's most beautiful azure-blue glacial waters; before seeing the Columbia Icefield, the largest in the Rockies; and taking a ride on a giant 'Snocoach' across the Athabasca Glacier.

Day four - Free day - Enjoy a free day in Banff.

Day five - Rocky Mountaineer - You set off on one of the world's greatest train journeys: the Rocky Mountaineer. The

train begins its spectacular two-day 585-mile journey following the Bow River valley before crossing the Continental Divide at Kicking Horse Pass. Next come the famed spiral tunnels, an engineering marvel built 100 years ago, and as you follow the Columbia River you cross the dramatic 500-foot steel span of Stoney Creek Bridge.

Day six - Vancouver - Continue your journey to Vancouver where you stay for the next two nights.

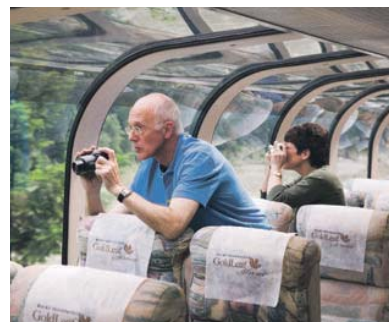
Day seven - Vancouver - Guided tour of Vancouver - one of the world's most naturally beautiful cities. Your city tour stops at Stanley Park, with its famous collection of totem poles, and Prospect Point, which offers lovely views. The afternoon is at leisure.

Day eight - Return flight - Transfer and overnight flight.

Day nine - Arrive back home - Arrive back in the UK.

The magnificent Rocky Mountains are Canada's crowning glory. Home to bears, majestic elk, moose and beaver, the vast forests seem to go on forever - and the Rocky Mountaineer train is acknowledged as the ultimate way to travel through this beautifully rugged terrain. Our tour includes a three-night stay in Vancouver, one of the most cosmopolitan and vibrant cities on North America's west coast. From here there's an option to extend your tour for a further seven nights on our fabulous Alaskan cruise. This combination must surely rank amongst the very finest scenic and wildlife holidays on earth.

Departures up to September 2017 and May to September 2018



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Experience the drama of the magnificent Rocky Mountains in unrivalled luxury on the Rocky Mountaineer train, the ultimate way to travel across this breath-taking terrain.
- Enjoy impeccable SilverLeaf service on board the Rocky Mountaineer, including two breakfasts and two lunches. Upgrades are available at a supplement
- Guided visits to Lake Louise, Peyto Lake and the Athabasca Glacier, plus ride on a SnoCoach and enjoy a tour of Vancouver
- Travel on the Icefields Parkway, one of the world's most scenic highways, and walk on the 300-metre-thick Athabasca glacier
- Return direct scheduled flights

and hotel transfers with premium economy flight upgrades available at a supplement

- Services of an experienced tour manager throughout
- Stay in hand-picked 3-star superior hotels

* Extend your nine-day holiday with a seven-night full board Alaska luxury cruise through the 'Inside Passage' with Holland America Line, visiting the awe-inspiring World Heritage Site of Glacier Bay National Park. Enjoy optional glacier helicopter flights, bear and whale-watching, fishing, kayaking, hiking and even dog-sledding, amongst the huge selection of shore excursions on our Alaska Cruise

INDIA - THE TIGERS OF RANTHAMBORE, PALACES OF RAJASTHAN AND THE TAJ MAHAL

TOUR



11 DAYS
FROM
£1,499
PER PERSON
OR 15 DAYS*
FROM
£1,959
PER PERSON



Day one - Arrival - Fly overnight flight to Delhi.

Day two - Delhi - You land late morning and transfer to your hotel. After a rest you begin a guided tour of New Delhi. You see the imposing Rajpath, India Gate and Parliament building and visit the 12th -century Qutub Minaret.

Day three - Delhi and Agra - A guided tour of Old Delhi takes you to Mahatma Gandhi's memorial, the Raj Ghat, then to the imposing Red Fort. Next it's one of Asia's largest mosques, the 25,000-capacity Jama Masjid. This afternoon we drive to Agra.

Day four - Agra - We rise early to catch the sun rising over the world's most beautiful building, the Taj Mahal. Next you visit the colossal Agra Fort that was the seat of the vast Moghul Empire.

Day five - Fatehpur Sikri and Ranthambore Park - We leave Agra for the ancient city of Fatehpur Sikri. Built in 1571 as Emperor Akbar's imperial capital, it was mysteriously abandoned 15 years later. After lunch, you board the Shatabdi Express for Ranthambore National Park.

Day six - Ranthambore - An early start is well worth the sacrifice as we head out on safari. Besides tigers, you can also see over 300 species of birds, crocodiles, sloth bears and leopards.

Day seven - Jaipur - After breakfast we head north for the enchanting 'Pink City' of Jaipur. An afternoon tour includes the famous Hawa Mahal, Astronomical Observatory and the City Palace that is still home to the Maharajah of Jaipur.

Day eight - Amber Fort - A genuine highlight this morning with a guided tour of the Amber Fort outside Jaipur. Dinner is included and taken at the Shahpura House.

Day nine - Alsisar - We depart Jaipur for Alsisar, a village on the renowned Silk Road featuring extravagant 'havelis' incorporating beautiful, frescoed walls. The imposing and luxurious residence of the local kings has been restored into the Heritage Alsisar Mahal. This afternoon there's a guided walk around the village.

Day 10 - Delhi - After breakfast we head back to Delhi.

Day 11 - Return to the UK - A morning transfer to the airport for our flight home.

Shimla Extension

On selected departures our tour continues to Shimla, the 'Queen of the Hill Stations'.

Day 11 - Shimla - We take the morning four-hour express train from Delhi to Kalka, travelling in air-conditioned 'chair class' carriages. At Kalka you transfer to Shimla's famous narrow-gauge 'toy train' for an unforgettable trip through dramatic scenery. A sumptuous evening buffet is included tonight.

Day 12 - Shimla - Today we explore British colonial life in this former hill station. Most impressive is the immense Viceregal Lodge and its botanical gardens. We also walk along the Mall, from Scandal Point and Christ Church past the mock-Tudor Post Office, Gaiety Theatre and Town Hall.

Day 13 - Shimla - A free day.

Day 14 - Delhi - We leave Shimla, descending by car to Kalka where we take the train to Delhi.

Day 15 - Return to the UK - Transfer to the airport for your return flight.



India, a unique country and civilization, is a mind-boggling potpourri of sights, sounds, colours and experiences, as well as a variety of astonishing cultural contrasts. From the flawless grandeur of the Taj Mahal, to the mighty fortresses of Rajasthan and from the reminders of past glories of the Raj in Delhi, to the teeming markets of Jaipur, our India tour encompasses the very best that northern India has to offer and is an endlessly fascinating journey of discovery.

Selected departures up to November 2017 and January to November 2018



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Visit all the major sights of Old and New Delhi
- See the breathtaking Taj Mahal bathed in soft morning light
- Spend two nights in the 'Pink City' of Jaipur, capital of the desert kingdom of Rajasthan with a guided tour of its City Palace and astronomical observatory and see the Palace of the Winds
- Marvel at the extraordinary location and beauty of Amber Fort
- Stay in an original Rajasthani fort, beautifully converted into a stunning Heritage Hotel
- Enjoy a guided tour of the 400-year-old deserted Moghul city of Fatehpur Sikri
- Services of an experienced tour manager
- Return direct scheduled flights. Premium economy upgrades available at a supplement
- Stay in hand-picked hotels rated three to five stars, with daily breakfast and seven meals included, plus a sumptuous buffet when staying at the Oberoi Cecil in Shimla
- Departures exclusively for solo travellers also available
- * Extended tour travels on the famous mountain railway, visiting Shimla, the summer capital of the Raj and 'Queen of Hill Stations', set high in the foothills of the Himalayas and staying in the luxurious Oberoi Cecil Hotel

GRAND TOUR OF CHINA TOUR



16 DAYS
INCLUDING
YANGTZE CRUISE
FROM
£2,699
PER PERSON



Day one - Departure - Overnight flight direct to Shanghai.

Day two - Arrival in Shanghai - Enjoy an afternoon stroll along the 'Bund', Shanghai's colonial riverside promenade.

Day three - Train to Beijing - Experience a thrilling journey on China's new 186mph high speed train service to Beijing.

Day four - Beijing's Forbidden City - Our first stop is Tiananmen Square and the Gate of Heavenly Peace, the entrance to the Forbidden City. After lunch we continue with a visit to the Summer Palace.

Day five - The Great Wall - Your first sight of the Great Wall is as it snakes along the forested ridges above - a wild landscape, as untamed as when it was built. After lunch we tour the Temple of Heaven in Beijing.

Day six - Xian - Fly to Xian and visit the Underground Museum displaying the funeral objects unearthed around the tomb of the first Han Emperor. We then see the city's imposing 40ft-high Ming Dynasty walls.

Day seven - Terracotta Army - The stunning Terracotta Army is a major highlight: in traditional battle order, the vanguard consists of rows of archers and crossbowmen, followed by columns of infantry and chariots.

Day eight - Guilin and Longshen Rice Terraces - Fly to Guilin and see another of China's great wonders: the Longshen Rice Terraces.

Day nine - Li River cruise - Cruise down the Li River on our excursion boat, one of the world's most beautiful river journeys!

Day 10 - Fly to Chengdu - Fly to Chengdu and visit Jin Li Street, a recreation of a traditional street, with plenty of handicrafts and places to sit down with some local green tea.

Day 11 - Chengdu Panda Centre - Spread over 200 acres, the Panda Breeding and Research Centre is landscaped with

bamboo-shaded pathways leading to the large panda enclosures. Experience another high-speed train on the 2hr journey to Chongqing where we board our river cruise ship, the five-star RV Century Sun.

Day 12 - Yangtze River cruise - After breakfast there's the option to visit Fengdu, the 'Ghost' City. In the afternoon we visit the Shibaozhai Pagoda, rising twelve stories up a sheer cliff, it is the architectural jewel of the Yangtze.

Day 13 - Yangtze River cruise - We enter Qutang, the first Yangtze gorge, continuing through the Wu Gorge before lunch. We transfer to smaller riverboats for a leisurely cruise on one of the Lesser Three Gorges, the narrow 'Goddess' stream.

Day 14 - Three Gorges Dam - We continue through the Xiling Gorge to the Three Gorges Dam, visiting the viewing platform from where this colossal project can be appreciated. Disembark and fly to Shanghai.

Day 15 - Shanghai - Tour the main sights, including the Jade Buddha temple and the Yuyuan Gardens.

Day 16 - Return Flight - Catch the world's fastest train, the Maglev, to the airport for our direct flight home.



This tour is a remarkable journey of discovery to one of the world's most ancient cultures, aspects of which are almost beyond our comprehension, blended with a remarkably stunning topography and a staggering pace of modernisation.

Departures up to October 2017 and March to October 2018



HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Visit the astonishing Great Wall of China, the only man-made monument visible from space
- See the world-famous Terracotta Army and the less-visited underground museum
- Tour of the Panda Breeding and Research Centre with a local guide
- Guided tour of the Temple of Heaven and the imperial gardens at the Summer Palace in Beijing
- See the man-made wonder of the Longshen Rice Terraces
- Enjoy a full-board, five-star Yangtze River Cruise and travel through the world's largest ship locks of the Three Gorges Dam
- City tour of Shanghai taking in Jade Buddha temple, Yuyuan Gardens and the old British Consulate
- Guided tour of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City - the world's largest concentration of preserved ancient wooden buildings
- Travel from Shanghai to Beijing on one of China's new 186mph high speed trains
- City tour of old Beijing's historic quarters by cycle rickshaw
- Cruise the world-famous Li River and visit the picturesque riverside town of Yangshuo
- Services of an experienced tour manager
- Hand-picked accommodation rated four-stars, with breakfast plus nine lunches and five dinners including a Peking Duck banquet
- Return flight

BURGUNDY, THE RIVER RHÔNE AND PROVENCE

CRUISE

FEATURING
MASTERS OF WINE
SUSIE BARRIE AND
PETER RICHARDS

EIGHT DAYS
FROM
£1,399
PER PERSON



Day one – Arrival in Lyon - Fly or take the Eurostar / TGV and transfer to the ship moored in central Lyon.

Day two – Lyon - After a guided tour of this city situated at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers, enjoy a winetasting on board with Susie and Peter, whilst cruising towards Chalon.

Day three – Beaune and Burgundy - Susie and Peter join us on our tour through this wine producing region to atmospheric Beaune with its multi-coloured Hotel Dieu.

Day four – Vienne and Tournon - Explore Vienne's treasure trove of medieval remains before we cruise through the most picturesque section of the Rhône Valley to Tournon.

Day five – Ardèche Gorges - Tour the Ardèche Gorges, the scale of which is a fitting reminder of Mother Nature's awesome power, with amazing views at every turn.

Day six – Arles and the Pont Du Gard - Enjoy a guided tour of Arles, the capital of Roman Gaul and Spain. This afternoon visit the amazing Roman aqueduct, the Pont du Gard.

Day seven – Avignon - Visit the imposing Popes' Palace, an architectural masterpiece on a guided walking tour. Wander Avignon's delightful streets, alleys and markets, where little has changed in centuries.

Day eight – Return home - Transfer to the airport or train station for your return journey.

From the lush slopes of the scenic winelands to the sun-baked hills of Provence and the wild beauty of the Ardèche Gorges to the medieval splendour of Avignon, enjoy a fascinating cruise to one of the most picturesque corners of France.

Departs August 21, 2017 and October 5, 2017

MASTERS OF WINE, SUSIE BARRIE AND PETER RICHARDS



Join renowned Masters of Wine, Susie Barrie and Peter Richards, who make a special appearance on this cruise, exclusively on our departures of August 21, 2017 and October 5, 2017.

Susie Barrie and Peter Richards are married Masters of Wine, best known for presenting the wine slots on BBC1's *Saturday Kitchen* for over a decade.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS:

- Join Susie and Peter when they make an appearance on this cruise, exclusively on our departures on August 21, 2017 and October 5, 2017
- Visit Beaune, centre of the Burgundy wine region, to enjoy a wine tasting
- Cruise the spectacular Rhône Valley
- Guided tour of Lyon, second city of France and its gastronomic capital
- Visit to charming Vienne
- Tour of the astonishing Ardèche Gorges
- Guided tour of Arles, with its extraordinary Roman remains

- and home of Vincent Van Gogh
- Visit to the Pont du Gard
- Tour of superbly preserved, medieval Avignon and the stunning Popes' Palace
- Full-board from dinner on your day of arrival until breakfast on your final day
- Services of an experienced cruise manager
- Standard class reserved seat on Eurostar from London St. Pancras or flight from a choice of regional airports (Supplements may apply)
- Beautifully appointed five-star cabins with hotel standard beds, private bathrooms and river views



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Insider
Travel

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